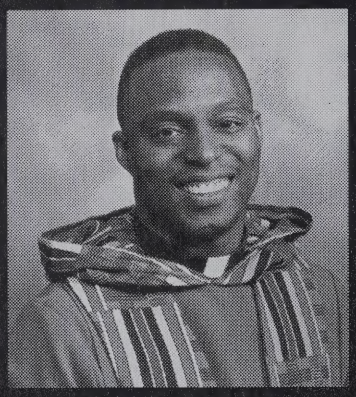
Hosted by Beyond 28 Days Committee, New York
Sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

BISHOP CARL BEAN, D.M.
Presiding Bishop and Founder, Unity Fellowship Church Movement
Founding Pastor, Unity Fellowship Church, Los Angeles

"Congratulations! Because of your efforts, freedom has come to many of our sisters and brothers!"

BISHOP CARL BEAN
AND THE
UNITY FELLOWSHIP FAMILY

GOD IS LOVE AND LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE



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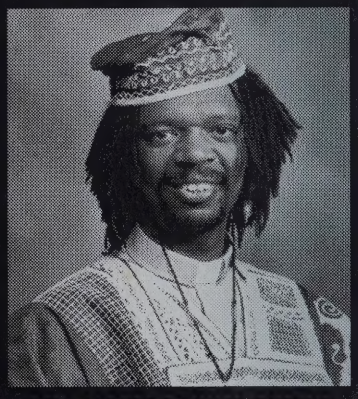

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Washington, D.C.

DARREN McCARROL-JONES
National Musical Director
Minister of Music,
Mother Church, Los Angeles

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DETROIT
NEW YORK
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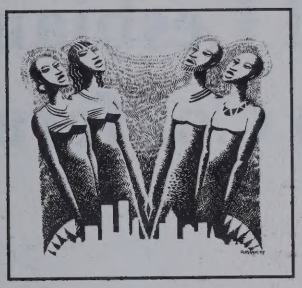
seventh annual national black gay and lesbian **conference** *and institutes*



Theme:
Black Lesbians and Gays:
From Silence to Celebration
Beyond the 28 Days

Sponsored by the
Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

February 17-21, 1994

MEADOWLANDS HILTON HOTEL
SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY

Russell Thornhill, *Editor-in-Chief*
Mark Durham, *Cover Design*
Alan Bell, *Editor and Art Director*
Mark Haile, Shawn Hinds, *Writers*
Ramona Bridges, Reginald Chapple,
Martha Henson, Lauren Metoyer,
Christine Adams Tripp, Karen Worrell, *Proofreading*
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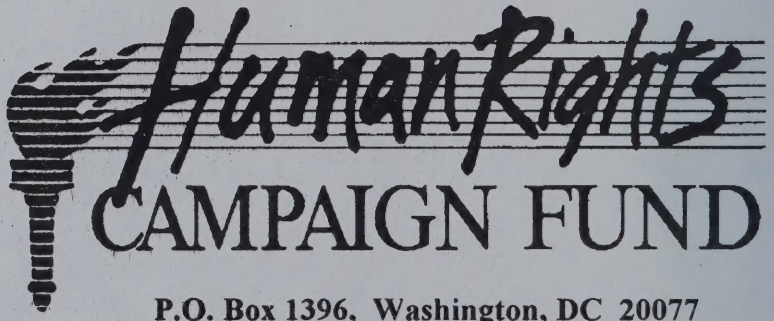
Salute!

We salute
the participants of the

**Seventh Annual
National Black
Gay and Lesbian
Leadership Conference**

"Every human being is an unprecedented miracle".

- James Baldwin



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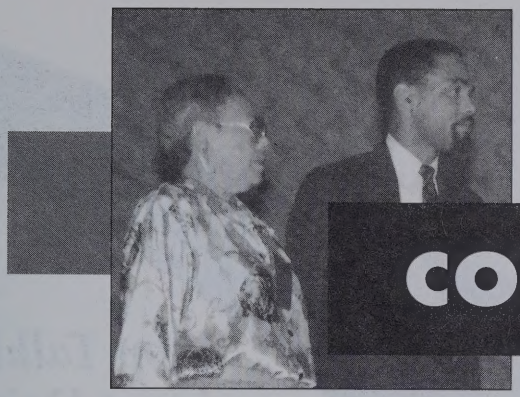

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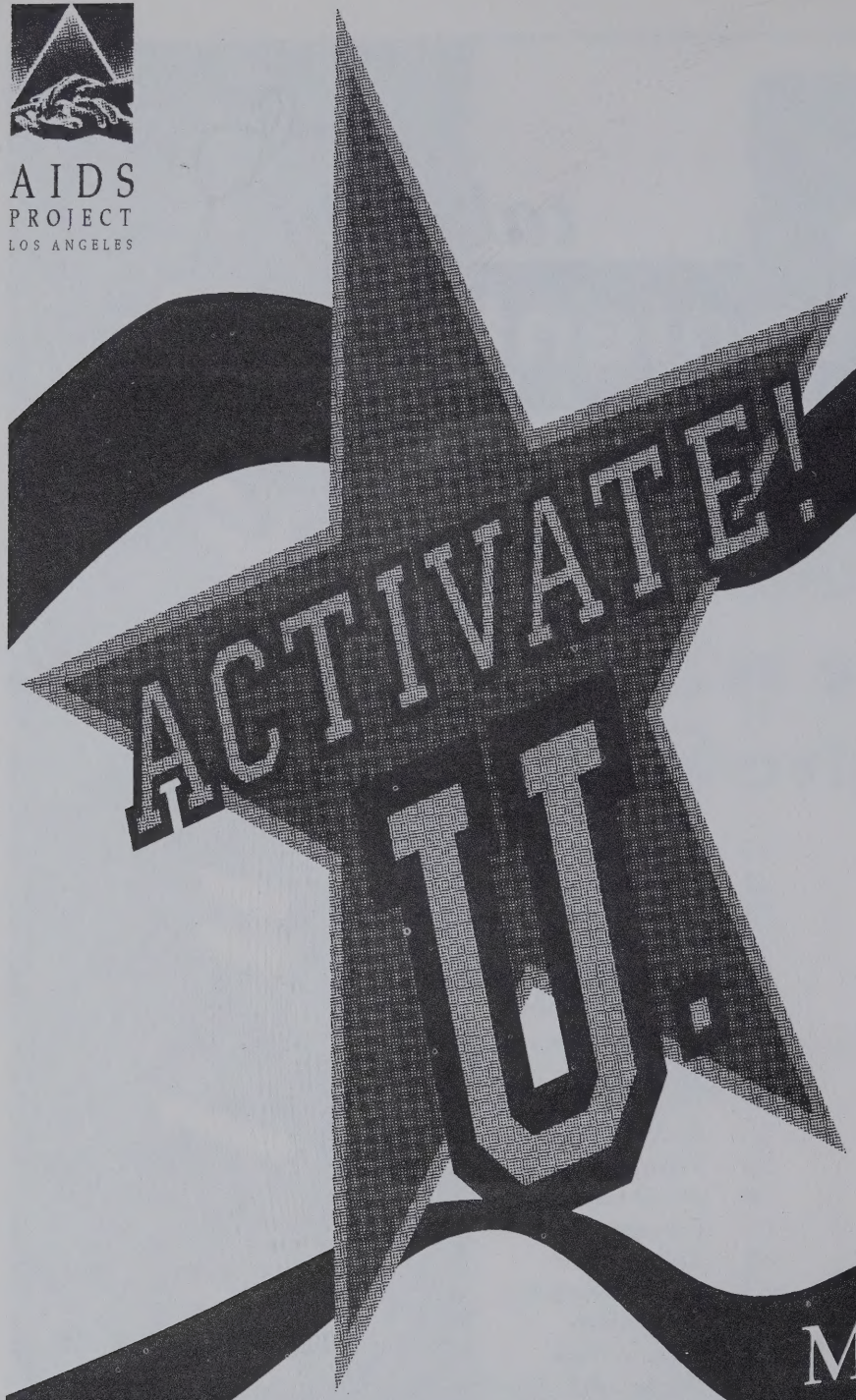
AIDS
PROJECT
LOS ANGELES



Stop Talking Start Doing.

HIV/AIDS: 12 years, no cure, one million Americans infected and Congress has never fully-funded the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act. Our government is not doing enough to fight HIV/AIDS.

That can change with you. You are probably unaware of the power and influence you can wield as a constituent. Your voice can help increase services for people with AIDS, provide education that could prevent someone from getting HIV and speed the search for a cure.

Many people think interacting with our government is a lot harder and more mysterious than it really is. Activate! U. was designed to give Southern California AIDS activists and organizations grass roots training through a series of interactive workshops, role playing exercises, and hands on training. Learn how to make our government make AIDS a priority.

MARCH 19, 1994

Southern California's first totally-interactive HIV/AIDS advocacy skills building conference

Do It...Now!

☐ **YES!** Send me information about Activate! U.
Saturday, March 19, 1994. 8 am to 6 pm.

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ *Zip* _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Fax _____

Tuition: $40 per person, includes box lunch
Please specify ____chicken or ____vegetarian

☐ Enclosed is my check or money order made out to AIDS Project Los Angeles.

☐ I want to attend Activate! U. For financial reasons, I would like to apply for a conference scholarship.

For more information call Christopher Kush at 213-993-1365
Please return completed application with payment to:
APLA Public Policy, 1313 N.Vine Street, Los Angeles, CA 90028

The Board of Directors and the Conference Steering Committee dedicate this Seventh Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference to George Rodney Carter. He was an active member of the Black Lesbian and Gay community and served on the Boards of the Minority AIDS Project, Gentlemen Concerned and the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. His leadership and his dedication to our community will surely be missed.

in memoriam

Ali
Greg Allen
Roy Allen
Eric Allyine
Wilmer Ames, Jr.
Mark Anderson
Antonio
Bernard Armstrong
Arthur Ashe
Chazz Atkins
Richard Avila
Stephan Bailey
Frank Bailey
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Ralph Bland, Jr.
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Gregory Bogles
Pee Wee Bradley
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Willie Brown
Stanley Brown
Broderick Bush
Vince Butler
Cliff Byers
Anthony Calloway
George Rodney Carter
Tony Carter
Baron Leroy Castor
Leonard Champa
E. Kitch Childs
Derrick Clapp
James Cleveland
Winstan Cockrell
Dewitt Colbert
Ricardo Collins
Wellmore A. Cooke
Jose Crespo
Michael Anthony "Mikolas" Crews
Raymond Cruz
Jeff Dabbs
Darius
Wayne Davis
Willis E. (Sonny) Davis
Gary DeLoach
Joe DeLoach
Melvin Dixon
Donnie
James Eugene Ebb
David Edwards
Eddie M. Edwards
Michael Flot
Byron Floyd
Nathaniel Foster
Zawadi-Lazarus Garrett
James Gilbert
Kliphie "Leggs Galore" Gillard
Roy Gonsalves
Howard Green
James Gripson
Murphy W. Guy
Jeff Haislmaier
Frank Hall
Bobby L. Hardy
James Harris
Maury Anthony Harris
Michael Harris
Robert S. Hart
Gordon Heath
Vincent C. Heflin
James A. Hendricks, Jr.
Lawrence Hibbler
Fred Hillard
Stevin Holden
Herbert Hunter
Richard Hyde
Joel B. Irvine
Cookie Jackson
Alexander Jaramillo
Billy Lee Jefferson
Darrow Johnson
Mark A. Johnson
Marsha P. Johnson a.k.a. Malcolm Michaels, Jr.
Dudley Jones
Carl Lee Jones
Velva Jean Jones
Bryan Joseph
Nathan Joshenberger
Ronald L. King
Kuji
Presley Lee
Larry Levan
Melvyn Lindsey
Willis R. Lomax, Jr.
Audre Lorde
Lenny Lyons
Marti Corinne Mackey
Dempsey James Mapp
Stephen Martin
Darrell Mason
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Sean Maurice Mitchell
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Donald "Dana Lareese" Simmons
Lue James Sinclair, Sr.
Sonia Singleton
Calvin Sledge
James Earl Smith, Jr.
James Virgil Smith
Joyce A. Smith
William E. B. Smith
Fabian Stoval
John "Adam" Sumlin
James Tanioka
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Bernard Turner
Peter Dana Wallace
Tony Warfield
Robert Warren
George Washington
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Charles William-Ford
David E. Williams
Wayne Williams
Norman Williams
Stanley Wilshire
Vera Woodbury
Donald W. Woods
David Woody
James Young
Daryl Youngstorm

Meadowlands Hilton

February, 1994

The Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum
1219 South La Brea
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Dear Attendees:

It is with great pleasure that the staff and management of the Meadowlands Hilton welcomes the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum!

There are many activities to see and do around the Secaucus area. The outlet shopping is superb and our personnel will be happy to assist you by providing information and directions. Additionally, midtown Manhattan is only 5 miles away. Public transportation is easily accessible. Hopefully, your schedule will permit a trip or two to New York City.

We are delighted to have you with us. All of us at the Meadowlands Hilton sincerely hope your visit is enjoyable, pleasant, and your conference a success!

Sincerely,

Jeff Erwin
General Manager

JE/acb

Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094 Telephone 201-348-6900
Reservations 1-800-HILTONS

welcome

FROM THE BGLLF CO-CHAIR '94 CONFERENCE CHAIR

Sistahs and Brothers,

Welcome to the 1994 National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Institutes. This year marks the seventh year of the largest gathering of Lesbians and Gay men of African descent from the United States and abroad. It has truly been a pleasure working with the Los Angeles Conference Steering Committee and the New York-based Beyond 28 Days Committee. Our efforts have resulted in a conference that will be both consciousness-raising and entertaining and is representative of the diversity of this rich community.

The theme for this year's conference: *"Black Lesbians and Gays: From Silence to Celebration...Beyond the 28 Days,"* was chosen to send a clear message that the time has come to celebrate who we are in our unique wholeness. We cannot allow our continued silence to render us invisible and powerless. In the past year, we have been reminded that silence equals acceptance. From the issue of Lesbians and Gays in the military, where we were asked to swallow the indignity of the President's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, to the resurgence of the religious right in their embittered attempts to silence us with accusations of "gay rights, special rights," we have been forced back into the closet of silence. Society tells us that it is tolerable to be Lesbian or Gay as long as we don't flaunt it.

We have learned that silence equals death in the 13-year battle we continue to wage against HIV/AIDS. Our silence around issues of heterosexism in the African American community will continue to spell our death as long as we are cloaked in invisibility. Our silence around sexism when perpetuated among our Gay brothers will spell our death as Lesbians as our voices are silenced and our issues go unrecognized. Our silence around racism as it is manifested in the larger Lesbian and Gay Community will certainly spell our demise as we are constantly overlooked and marginalized. Our silence around issues of classism will continue to divide us as long as we exclude on the basis of economic access.

We can no longer sit idly by in silence if we are to collectively survive as Lesbians and Gays of distinction. We must celebrate our Blackness, our Lesbianism and Gayness in every aspect of our being. We can not let the herstory of Stonewall continue to be re-written with the exclusion of the contributions of Black and Latin drag kings and drag queens. No longer will we continue to allow the acknowledgment of our black heroines/heroes to be confined to the days of the shortest month of the year. We have been bastardized long enough! We now call for an immediate end to our bastardization and the silencing of the old tapes that have kept us oppressed.

Celebrate with us our existence and contributions to herstory as we move beyond the 28 days!

Visibly yours,

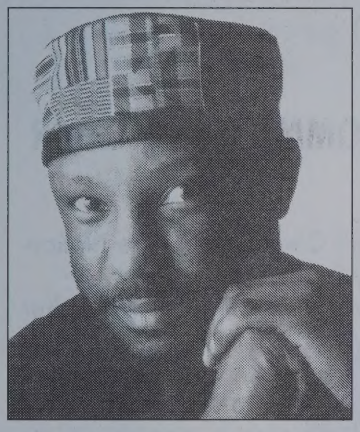
Vallerie D. Wagner
BGLLF Co-Chair
'94 Conference Chair

FROM THE BGLLF CO-CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Tonight we celebrate by dancing in the light of our accomplishments. In the dawning of tomorrow, a greater light awaits us.

Seven years ago, when we held our first conference, the stories on page one told us that Tseko Simon Nkoli was implicated in crimes against state, that AIDS was rising aggressively in our community, that James Arthur Baldwin was dying, and, finally, that any diva who is a diva, would be "Coming Home For Friends."



The lesson, I suppose, is that not all that much has changed in the course of seven years. Names and faces may evolve and our numbers may keep getting bigger, but the African American Lesbian and Gay community is still challenged on every front of our daily lives. While some would have us believe that it was Stonewall that signalled our call to arms just 25 years ago, we all know that our call was sounded more than 200 years ago when Lesbians, Gay men, dethroned kings and queens, street children and thieves were wrapped in chains and posted "non-return" to this country "...sweet land of liberty..." And the struggle continues.

For each who fell, another braver or more "out", rose to fight for the cause. It was only when we began to define our own her/history were we able to truly recognize our achievements. And we celebrate because our past demands that we do. As it demands that we keep fighting so that victory will be made friendly.

This her/history includes the African American presence at the Stonewall uprising and the thousands who marched recently in Washington. We celebrate the passage of domestic partnership legislation, Carol Mosley-Braun and Sabrina Sojourner, the first Black Lesbian to be elected to the District's Democratic State Committee. We also celebrate the firing of Rev. Eugene Lumpkin, the African American San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner who called for the death of Lesbians and Gay men. Conversely, we celebrate the hiring of Rev. Herbert Evans in Philadelphia, the only African American man pastoring a Metropolitan Community Church parish in North America. The celebrations continue.

We welcome and challenge you to use this weekend to explore the richness, achievements and celebrations of the Lesbian and Gay experience. As you venture through the next few days, remember that this gathering is more than the seventh or 25th anniversary of something. This conference is a celebration of life, as we live it, beyond the 28 days!

In Unity,

Gregory J. May
BGLLF Co-Chair

FROM THE '94 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Meadowlands in New Jersey and the Seventh Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference. It has been a great pleasure working with Vallerie Wagner from Los Angeles and Candice Boyce and Paul Darling from New York City. I would like to extend congratulations to the Los Angeles Steering Committee and the Beyond 28 Days host committee in New York City for all of their efforts and hard work in bringing this conference to you.

The theme, "Black Lesbians and Gays: From Silence to Celebration...Beyond the 28 Days" is our call to be silenced no more and celebrate all that we are 365 days of the year.

We can no longer be silent about the fact that we are proud Black Lesbians and Gay men who are movers and shakers in this diverse society. We can no longer be silenced about the fact that our diversity is inclusive of our transgendered brothers and sisters. We can no longer be silent about our presence in the White House, State House, City Hall, board rooms, operating rooms, classrooms, pulpits, police and fire departments.

We are Lesbians and Gays who create dance, poetry, theater and lyrics. We are mothers, fathers, sisters,

brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. We are in the judiciary, legislature and are representatives on all levels and in every fabric of our society. We are living with HIV, AIDS, cancer and are physically challenged. We will be silenced no more!

We must celebrate our positions in society and our significant contributions to the world community. Our celebrations extend beyond this February conference to include Black Gay Pride, At the Beach, Black Family Reunion, Labor Day in Atlanta, National Coming Out Day, Juneteenth, Kwanzaa, just to name a few.

As our community grows, so grows our strength as Black Lesbians and Gays. Let's continue that growth as we go from "Silence to Celebration...Beyond the 28 Days."

It is my greatest hope that when we leave this gathering the celebration will continue.

Continuing in the Struggle,

Russell Thornhill
'94 Conference Co-Chair

FROM THE HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Alafia!

As co-host of the Beyond 28 Days committee, it is an honor to welcome you to New York/New Jersey, the Black cultural Mecca for Lesbians and Gay Men.

The co-chairs and volunteers have worked very hard to ensure that you enjoy your stay in the twin states. You will find everything from wonderful cultural events to workshops that will effect the political and grassroots environment of the cities of America.

We hope that this experience opens your mind, cleanses your body, and allows your spirit to soar, so that you go back to your homes and organizations with the power and leadership skills needed to bring together a movement to Black Lesbians and Gay Men, and Lesbians and Gay Men of all colors, that will strike the blow for freedom from all "isms"–heterosexism, racism, and sexism. So that you can go back to the towns and cities of this country prepared to fight the good fight–the fight for liberation.n.

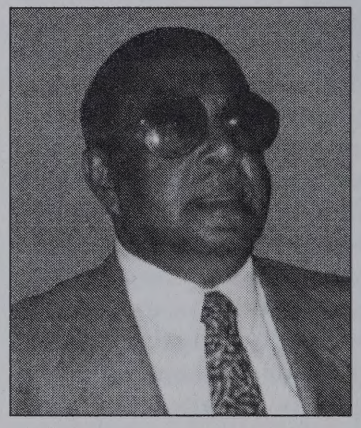
Sincerely,

Candice Boyce
Host Committee Co-Chair

FROM THE HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Friends,

Welcome to the Seventh Conference of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.



Welcome to an opportunity to network with other members of our society who are about change, and came here prepared to share.

Welcome to a forum of hope, determination and leadership. Welcome to the next phase in liberation of every Lesbian and Gay person of color.

Welcome to a time and place where you, your input, your sharing and your caring makes the difference for constructing change.

Your are welcome to use this conference to establish, and maintain, a viable support system that empowers our Lesbian and Gay communities.

Welcome to the Big Apple. Enjoy your stay, and if I can be of help, just ask.

Sincerely,

Paul Darling
Host Committee Co-Chair

BLUE WORLD TRAVEL CORP

February, 1994

Blue World Travel Corp. would like to thank Ms. Vallerie Wagner and Mr. Russell Thornhill for the opportunity to serve the community. It's been our pleasure meeting and speaking with everyone involved in the 1994 Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum Conference.

From all of us at Blue World Travel, we join you in your celebration and congratulate you on your success!

Patricia Yarbrough

Art Forte

Marilyn Ramirez

Jeff Hoey

Kathy Taylor

Wendy Adams

Elizabeth Ripley

Roberto Arce

Eve Robinson

50 First Street • Suite 411 • San Francisco, California 94105 • (415) 882-9444
FAX: (415) 882-9985 TELEX: 9102501422 BLUEWLD UQ

the black gay and lesbian **leadership** *forum*

About the Organization

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum was established in March 1988. The organization was formed as an alternative for African American Lesbians and Gay men to exchange information and to address urgent issues facing the African American Gay and Lesbian community at large, from the perspective of both the African American community and the Lesbian and Gay community.

The goal of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is to help strengthen existing institutions currently serving African American Lesbians and Gay men by tapping into our resources to educate and inform our African American community, and non African American organizations, of our unique contributions to African American history. By exuding visible pride in our endeavors, we eradicate all forms of homophobia that have been intrinsic to the African American culture.

In addition to producing the annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, now in its seventh year, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum has implemented another facet of its purpose with the formation of the AIDS Prevention Team. The Forum remains at the forefront of the African American Lesbian and Gay community by molding the AIDS Prevention Team to become one of the first African American service organizations to embody all facets of services to the African American HIV-infected community.

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Phillip T. Wilson, *Founder*
Russell Thornhill, *Conference CoChair*
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About the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum was founded to assist the Board of Directors and the Conference Steering Committee by providing input that reflects the broad diversity of issues relevant to the African American Lesbian and Gay Community. Specifically, the Board of Governors will provide the Board of Directors and the Conference Steering Committee with on-going feedback on the Conference structure and direction. In addition, the Board of Governors will assist the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum with nation wide visibility and recruitement of new members.

The Board of Directors salutes the Board of Govenors and thanks them for their instrumental support in assisting the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in meeting its goals and objectives.

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Advertising
Russell Thornhill

AIDS Institute
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AIDS Prevention Team

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Mark Durham

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A. Renee Williams

Cultural Arts
Katrice Jackson
Lisbet

Cultural Track
A. Renee Williams

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Preston Smith
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Spirituality Track
Troy Fernandez
Kevin Spears

Vendors/Merchandising
Jonathan Poullard
A. Renee Williams

Volunteers
Ramona Bridges
Karen Worrell

Womyn's Institute
Vallerie D. Wagner
Vengerflutta Smith
Jacquelyn Holland
A. Renee Williams

Young Adult Track
Eden Ajrian-Omari
Carissa Chandler
Malcolm Harris
Edmond James Mouton Jr.
Marques McClary
Marion Pitts
Kinshasa Vargas-Pile

beyond 28 days *committee, n.y.*

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At the Beach

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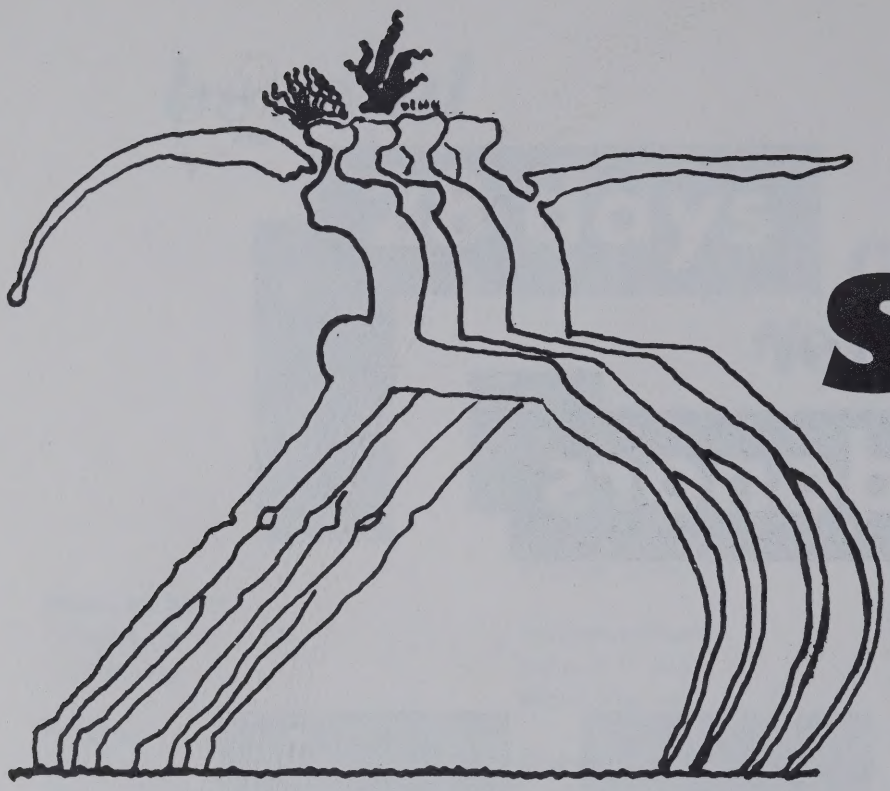
Gentlemen Concerned



Keep in Stride With Black Pride

Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day is taking it a step further this year. So come and experience our culture in Washington, D.C.

Memorial Day Weekend '94
May 27-30

For Ticket and More Information Call the Pride Line

(202) 986-8859, (301) 961-1155, 1-(800) 206-4101.

All net proceeds benefits AIDS Organization serving the BLACK community.

Hotel Accommodation:

The RAMADA Hotel
10 Thomas Circle, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Single $59/ Double $64 per night
Phone: 1-800-424-1140
(Ask for BLGPD rate)

Travel Accommodation:

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USAir begins with you
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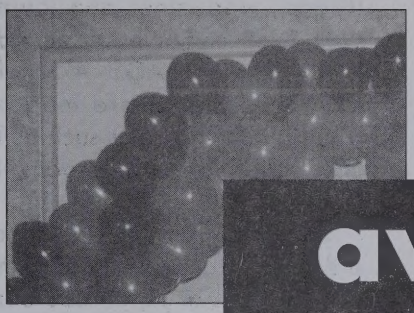
Code: #23130397

Continental Airlines: 1-800-468-7022
Code: ZE70

Sponsored by: Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc.
Post Office Box 77071; Washington, D.C. 20013-7071



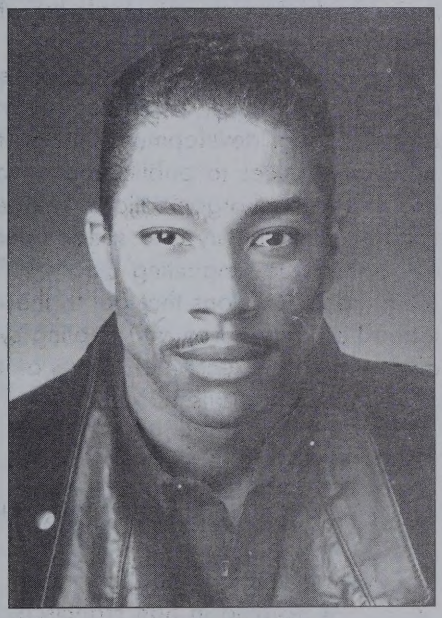
awards

STEPHEN SEMIEN

JAMES BALDWIN BLACK QUILL AWARD

Semien began a performing career in his preteens as a member of the Joel Nobel (Katherine Dunham Dance Co., original Broadway company of Carmen Jones, Apollo theater of the 50's resident dancer) Dance Company in San Francisco.

He has studied theater and dance on scholarship at the Dance Theater of Harlem, Vinnette Carroll's Urban Arts Theater, the Open Forum acting company in New York City, the Alvin Ailey School of American Dance and the May O'Donnell (Graham technique) school of Modern Dance.



Semien has performed in and/or assisted in the staging of national, European and Broadway companies of *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* (also for PBS), *Your Arms Too Short to Box With God, It's So Nice to be Civilized, Eubie, Ain't Misbehavin, Sophisticated Ladies, Porgy and Bess* and the film version of *The Wiz*.

For five seasons Semien served as artistic director of the Hartford Contemporary Dance Theater in Hartford, Conn., where in association with The Hartford Stage Co. and director Clay Stevenson, he choreographed *Kiss Me Kate, Anything Goes, Of Thee I Sing, The Pajama Game, Wonderful Town, Home* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Semien's choreography was nominated for a Hollywood NAACP Theater Award for his work in *De Obeah Mon* starring Tony-award-winner Delores Hall. He was featured in NBC's Emmy-nominated *In Celebration of Black Men* and performed at the Winter Olympics in Calgary.

He's also written and staged *Thru the Mirror*, a youth tribute to Michael Jackson, at UCLA's Royce Hall, *When the Lights Came On!* for Vinnette Carroll's Urban Theater in New York City, and *A Toast to Black Broadway* for the Steven's Center in Winston-Salem, N.C.

For his performance last season in Lake Tahoe of *Ain't Misbehavin*, Semien was reviewed by Reno/Tahoe critic Guy Richardson as "a match for any performer...anywhere."

His recent stage show, *Children of the Night*, was nominated for six NAACP Theater Awards and won the award for best choreography. Semien is presently directing *The County Office* by Elsie Spruill at Ebony Showcase Theater in Los Angeles. Semien was also recently named *SBC* magazine's Brother of the Year in the Arts. Semien's most recent work includes the writing of *Black Pearls*, a musical tribute to six late Black female superstars.

SABRINA SOJOURNER

BAYARD RUSTIN AWARD

Sabrina Sojourner's activist and organizing roots span over 25 years, having organized her first conference when she was 13 years old for the Northern California teen Club Council and her first political rally at 16 against the Vietnam War. It was during the tumultuous times of the '60s that Sojourner first came to understand the power of

the spoken word. She believes the high school training and experience she received as a successful competitive speaker has helped her in numerous ways–not the least of which is remaining a strong and effective speaker.

Portions of the history of the Lesbian and Gay movement are intricately woven into Sojourner's personal history. In 1978, she was the public information director of the National Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, the first attempt to have a national crisis and information line for the Lesbian and Gay community. She became the first person of color to co-chair the San Francisco Gay Pride Festival (1979 and 1980). In 1979-80, she was the first out Lesbian of color to teach at San Francisco State University. She was one of the movers and shakers at the first National Conference of Third World Lesbians and Gay Men of Color, held in 1979 on the same weekend as the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Sojourner was a speaker at the first March on Sacramento for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1980. As news editor of *etcetera* magazine, the southeast's leading Lesbian and Gay publication in 1989-90, she became the first Lesbian of color to hold such a position for a major publication. In 1992, Sojourner became the first out African American Lesbian to be appointed to a Democratic state committee when she was elected to the D.C. Democratic State Committee. In this capacity, she co-chairs the Issues Committee and is very involved in the politics of the District.

In 1992, Sojourner was awarded the Pioneer Black Journalist Award for Editorial from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists. It was the first time the organization has recognized the talents of an out Gay person. The winning article, "Accepting Differences," had appeared in the July, 1990 issue of *BLK*, the nation's leading Black Lesbian and Gay newsmagazine. In June, 1993 she was named Ms. Pride by Pride of Washington.

Sojourner has been published in a variety of newspapers, magazines and journals, including *Plexus, Gay Community News, The Advocate, Sojourner, The Black Scholar, SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women* and *etcetera* magazine. Her works also appear in anthologies such as *The Politics of Women's Spirituality, Intricate Passions, Riding Desire* and *The Poetry of Sex.*

Sojourner has been a keynote speaker, workshop presenter and facilitator to enthusiastic audiences and participants at numerous conferences and events across the country. Among the organizations which have utilized her talents are: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Minority AIDS Conference, the Office of Minority Health, the National Council of International Health Centers, the National Women's Studies Association and the United States Students Association.

She is often asked to speak about and to do workshops on multiculturalism or racism, sexism and homophobia. "I believe part of the reason for this request is because I'm most honest with people about the work and commitment it takes to deal with the implications of difference," Sojourner commented in a recent interview. "I also work to create an atmosphere that gives people permission to feel whatever is going on with them. And I give people tools by which to work on their biases and bigotry."

In addition to speaking to a variety of audiences around the country, Sojourner is currently providing organizational development and multiculturalism consultation services to public and private corporations and educational organizations. She believes the key to changing our society is to speak openly and honestly about the issues impacting our lives. "In doing so, we often create solutions that get to the root of problems instead of focusing on and treating symptoms." She is also writing a collection of essays on difference, diversity and multiculturalism.

REGGIE WILLIAMS

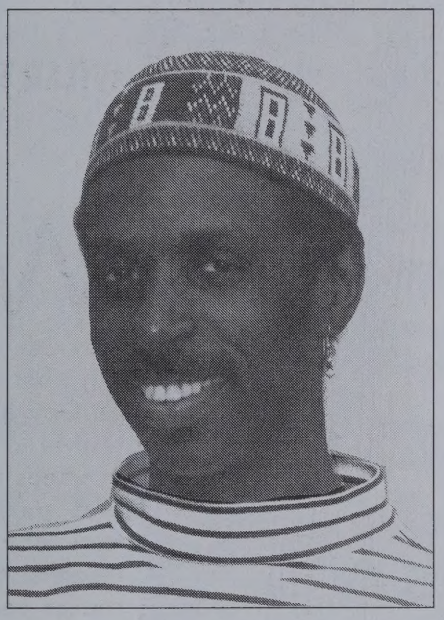
FREDERICK GARNETT MEMORIAL AIDS AWARD

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and now residing in San Francisco, Reggie Williams has been at the forefront of the AIDS epidemic since 1982, first as a radiology technologist and currently as founder and executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

His community based experience began while working at Moffitt Hospital in San Francisco where he first started seeing cases of AIDS. Much of his community work began with the local chapter of Black and White Men Together and with people of color community based organizations and networks. His activity

turned national when the Centers for Disease Control funded the NTFAP in 1988 to provide targeted prevention services for Gay men of color.

While constantly working on his objectives of raising awareness, empowering people and Gay men of color, influencing behavior changes and providing technical assistance, his efforts have contributed to reducing the transmission of HIV and ensuring a range of HIV services in communities historically underserved by health education and health care delivery systems. He has managed several demonstration projects in San Francisco and a national program impacting 30 cities across the country. Williams is a full-time AIDS activist on local, state, national and international levels who consistently relates his own experience as an HIV-positive African American Gay man to the other problems so evident today for African American people as a whole.



Among his outstanding achievements are co-chair and member of the San Francisco Ryan White CARE Planning Council; member of the 1993 CDC External Review Committee; member of the National Treatment Advocacy Project Steering Committee; former member of the Boards of Directors for AIDS Action Council, San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS; Shanti Project, 18th Street Services and Mobilization Against AIDS; and former member of the Burroughs Wellcome Community Advisory Board, 6th International Conference on AIDS Community Task Force, 8th International Conference on AIDS Social Impact and Response Committee, Wedge Program Advisory Committee and others.

He has spoken in front of hundreds of thousands from the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights and Liberation to the 1992 Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust and to countless international, national and regional conferences. His federal work has been seen advocating for targeted prevention and early intervention programs before Congress and before NIH/NIAID, HRSA and CDC.

In recognition of tireless activity–even in the face of personal effects from his HIV disease–he has received many awards for community service and outstanding achievements, among them from: Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, National Gay and Lesbian Health Forum, Shanti Project, Kairos House, Bay Area HIV Support and Education Services, National Association of Black and White Men Together, AIDS Indigent Direct Services and Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

Through his own quest for self-empowerment and equality for all, Williams has become a role model, indeed a national treasure for thousands of health care professionals and private citizens.

UNITY FELLOWSHIP NEW YORK

HARRIETT TUBMAN AWARD

Elder Zachary G. Jones, a Los Angeles, California native, is the pastor and founder of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church in New York City where record breaking numbers of African American Lesbians and Gay men gather weekly to worship and give praise to their Higher Power, in the Black tradition. Services are held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. He is also elder of the Northeast District of the National Unity Fellowship Movement.

An openly Gay minister, Elder Jones was first licensed for pulpit ministry in 1970 at the Mount Moriah Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Melvin Wade. Realizing that the Baptist doctrine in which he had been trained no longer met his spiritual needs, he then moved his membership and affiliation to the Pentecostal Movement, where he remained until he graduated from Palos Verdes Bible Seminary. There, he studied traditional theology and graduated in May of 1981.

Upon graduation, Rev. Zach, as he is lovingly known, began his ministry as the Youth Pastor of the South Bay Christian Center in Los Angeles. He married and soon had a son. Now, Rev. Zach was a husband and a father who was Gay and very unhappy. It was then that he decided to continue his education, and he attended Believer's Bible College. Upon graduation, he received his ordination by the Four Square Movement of Los Angeles. In 1983, Rev. Zach became the young adult Pastor of the West Adams Four Square Church.

Rev. Zach divorced his wife in 1984, and decided that he would no longer get involved in ministry because he could not be an openly Gay minister; he would live his life as a Gay man putting all of his theo-

logical training behind him to become an attorney. It soon became clear that this was not what God had in store for him.

In 1986, Rev. Zach met Bishop Carl Bean at a service at Unity Fellowship Church. Upon hearing the message of liberation theology, he became increasingly interested in the tenets of Unity Fellowship. He remembers Bishop Bean saying to him, "the Lord has shown me you are going to play a major role in this movement." In 1987 he joined Unity, and influenced by the teachings of Bishop Bean, Rev. Zach's role soon became defined.

He became the first assistant pastor ordained in the Los Angeles Church and in May 1992, when Bishop Bean realized how much Unity was needed in New York City, Rev. Zach agreed to represent the Movement on the east coast.

WILLA TAYLOR

MABEL HAMPTON AWARD

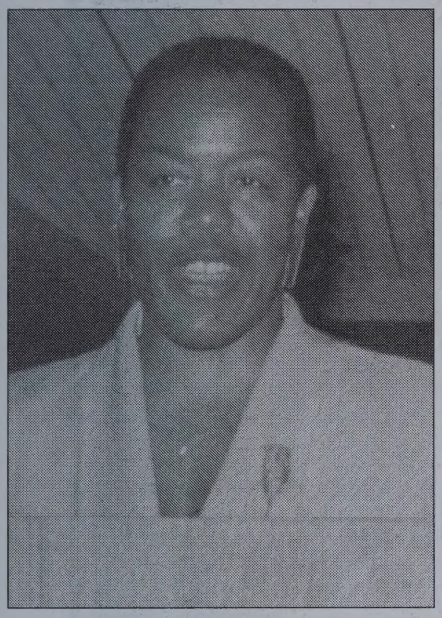
Willa Taylor is the Cultural Festival Director for Gay Games IV. Coordinating what will be the largest Gay and Lesbian arts festival in the world, she oversees the exhibitions and performances of more than 3000 artists in theaters, galleries, public spaces and concert halls throughout New York City.

Taylor began her professional theater career as an actor at the age of 16 in *The Me Nobody Knows* in Dallas, Tex. and has freelanced as a production coordinator, production associate, stage manager and sound technician for theater, opera, television and film.

A native of Dallas, Tex., Taylor received her M.F.A. in film from American University in 1986 after 12 years as a Russian and Arabic linguist in the U.S. Navy. Through her production company, RealJob, she had produced the radio series *Profiles in Black* for the Armed Forces Radio; *Dark Eyes: Visions of Black Women,* for the 1987 Women's International Film Festival; and the award-winning series, *A Woman's Place* for cable television. She was associate producer of *Sleeping Beauty,* her first feature film, and is in preproduction for *The Third Wave,* a documentary about

women and AIDS.

Before moving to New York in 1993, she developed the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship Program at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. The only theater-run program of its kind in the country, it was designed as a first step toward professional careers in the theater for people of color. Under her coordination, 92 percent of the Hughes Fellows were placed in positions with arts organizations throughout the United States, including the National Playwrights Center, the Papp and the Lincoln Center.



On loan to the Gay Games from Lincoln Center Theater where she is the Education Program Coordinator, she continues to represent the theater on Lincoln Center's Council on Educational Programs, and acts as consultant for their comprehensive educational outreach program targeting New York City's public schools.

Taylor is a member of Unity Fellowship Church, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and the Association of Theater in Higher Education.

MICHELLE T. CLINTON

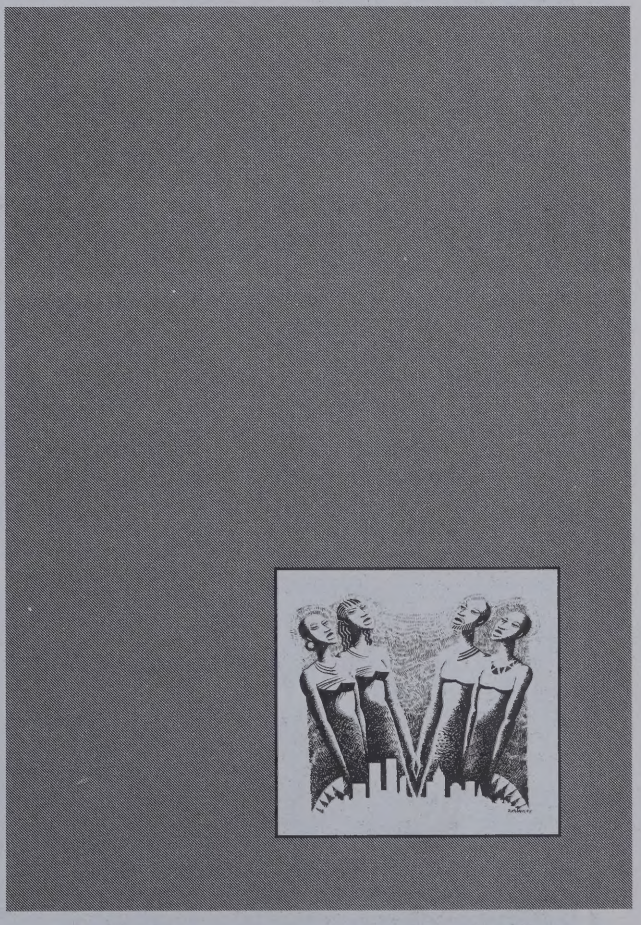
AUDRE LORDE BLACK QUILL AWARD

Michelle T. Clinton is a poet, performance artist and teacher who won a national Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship in 1992 for her powerful insightful poetry. In 1991, she won a Vesta Award from the Los Angeles Women's Building for her contribution to the arts community as a feminist and a radical healer. She is widely known and celebrated as an energetic vibrant reader and skilled craftswoman. She also received an American Book Award in 1990.

Her publications include *Good Sense and the Faithless* released in 1993, *High Blood/Pressure* as well as editorship for *Invocation L.A.: Urban Multicultural Poetry.*

Her recordings include *Black Angeles* (recorded with Wanda Coleman) and *Blood as a Bright Color* on Freeways Records.

She has read nationally and internationally, lectured on sexism and feminist creative process. She has developed and performed literary presentations on the work of the African American women writers. She has taught literature and creative writing at Occidental College, Otis Parsons School of Design and UCLA Extension. She has achieved the rank of black belt in Okinawan karate.



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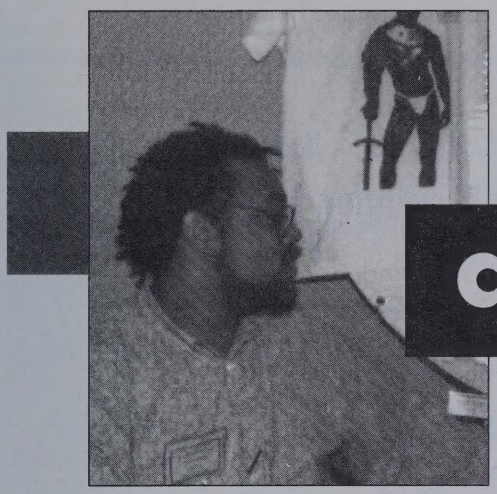
Saturday and Sunday
February 19 and 20
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Ralph Bland, Jr. Room



aids prevention team

The AIDS Prevention Team is a project of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. The purpose of the AIDS Prevention Team is to provide AIDS education about prevention, early intervention and treatment options, host safer sex workshops–for women and men, peer-to-peer counseling, HIV buddy mentor programs and cross training workshops. The APT is committed to its purpose by developing programs, formats and services that are geared specifically to HIV-infected African Americans, regardless of gender.

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum remains at the forefront of the African American Lesbian and Gay community by molding the AIDS Prevention Team to become one of the first African American HIV/AIDS service organizations to embody all facets of services to the African American HIV-infected community. These services are not different nor unique from other services offered by other AIDS services organizations. However, the fact alone that these services will be facilitated by experienced and professional members of the African American community alleviates insensitivity in regards to treating the African American HIV-infected community. This degree of insensitivity has garnered many levels of stress that the HIV-infected community receives when attending an agency that is not wholly multicultural in its dealing with the HIV-infected segment in people of color communities.

Services listed below profile the activities in which the agency is currently engaged and from which the agency hopes to expand.

HIV/AIDS Education

Models for HIV prevention and safe sex practices are presented in a series of workshops. The culturally sensitive content incorporates group discussion and role-playing, which leaves participants with a greater sense of control of their lives. The ability to negotiate safer sex with a partner, knowledge of personal risk and practices and other topics make this a popular workshop. Workshop content is consistently evaluated to ensure that accurate information is being delivered through positive, non-judgmental facilitators.

A second component to education activities of the agency is the "bar zaps." Designed for grassroots outreach, staff and volunteers perform bar zaps and distribute safer sex kits as well as HIV brochures/information. Responding to informal questions in this type of environment often leads to referrals of needed services, i.e., HIV testing, counseling and early intervention.

In addition to workshops, youth and general population members obtain HIV information/referrals through H.I.T. (HIV Information Tables) that are set up at special events such as street fairs. One-on-one discussion with a trained volunteer encourages workshop attendance and service referrals.

HIV Support Services

For individuals who recently learned of their HIV seropositive status and/or daily cope with HIV/AIDS issues, an action plan for productive living is essential to wellness. The AIDS Prevention Team has designed a program around health and exercise. This support services program focuses on exercise health information, treatment information, early intervention, medical and social service resources and emotional issues surrounding HIV infection. Trained volunteers facilitate weekly HIV+/- aerobics classes, while guest speakers from the medical and social services community provide the more technical support. The Town Meeting

forums presented by the Treatment Advocates and Volunteer Peer Advocates afford the opportunity for the community to learn the difference between HIV and AIDS, how to care for people who are infected with these diseases and the available types of treatment options.

Other support services include HIV+ wellness groups for women and men: an on-site Mental Health Counselor providing culturally specific counseling, referrals for those needing longer term counseling, and peer-to-peer training.

Advocacy

BGLLF/APT is an advocate on behalf of those infected with HIV for quality health care, increased educational programs, early intervention and practical, emotional, social and financial support services. Many advocated programs are collaborative efforts with other community-based organizations. The AIDS Prevention Team greatly advocates inclusion of people of color communities in clinical trails. By being an active member of A.C.T.G. and maintaining a close relationship with Being Alive, the AIDS Prevention Team helps clients to be exposed to current information on open and ongoing clinical trails.

Coalition Building

BGLLF/APT works with various Los Angeles communities and agencies in the development of coalitions to fight HIV/AIDS especially among African Americans. Combining community resources and coordinated services to HIV impacted individuals augments a reduced health care system. The APT has organized community meetings which invite community leaders to network, share information and learn more about how to impact this devastating disease. We have been able to form working relationships with West Hollywood Homeless Organization, Minority AIDS Project, Watts Healthcare Foundation, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and the Dunbar Economic Development Corp., just to name a few. Additionally, we are currently members of the Gay Men of Color Consortium, the Minority AIDS Consortium, and the newly formed African American Community Coalition of Los Angeles.

Leadership Building

Developing new leaders and volunteers to support the changing needs of people affected by HIV/AIDS is done through on-the-job training, internship programs, workshops and education in HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention. The development of new leaders to deliver a life-affirming message of hope and human dignity remains a major goal of the agency.

AIDS Prevention Team

STAFF
Emery Smith, *Acting Program Director*
Adriene Corbin, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Will Dorsey, *Accountant*
Joei Dykes, *Treatment Advocate*
David Flot, *Office Manager*
Larry Mims, *Treatment Advocate*
Blaine Teamer, *Treatment Advocate*
La Paula Turner, *Public Relations Coordinator*

VOLUNTEERS
Terry Allen
Ronald Avery
Gil Baylor
Reggie Chapple
Ilya Conyette
Veronique Diallo
L. Reece Ewing
Troy D. Fernandez
Parris Gill
David Green
Carol Griffin
Ollie Guine
Nick Hunter
Donald Jefferson
John Morgan, Jr.
Artie Lindsay
Kevin Loveless
Martha Lowe
Mathogonolo Maboe
Beryl McKenzie
Michael Morton
Sebastian Pruitt
Donald Ragland
Lisa Rhodes
Tim Richardson
Lenore N. Rivers
Henri Scott
Marissa Spears
James Stokes
Charles Swan
Bill Tanner
Aaron Thompson
Debra Thurston
Loren Turner
Gregory Victorianne
Calvin Williams
Paul Wright

Los Angeles is home to the largest Gay & Lesbian
social services agency in the world,
The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center

The Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic
and The Center
take pride in congratulating
the Los Angeles AIDS Prevention Team
of the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum
for outstanding efforts in AIDS education and outreach.

Please join us for the following upcoming events:

▽ **March** ▽

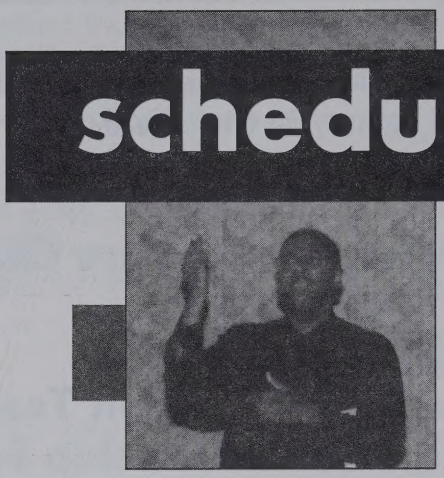
Women's Night XI- The Center's Annual Lesbian Dinner/Dance to be held at the Biltmore Hotel, Saturday, March 5, 1994. For more information, please call Dell Clark, (213) 993-7625

▽ **May** ▽

The California AIDS Ride- 500 Riders to ride 500 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 7 days to benefit The Center's HIV/AIDS-related services. For more information, please call (213) 874-7474

THE CENTER
L.A. GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

We're Out For Good!



schedule *of events*

Thursday, February 17, 1994

7 a.m.-9 p.m.	Registration	Foyer
	Vendor's Exhibit	River Cove Room
	Safe Space	Suite 1212
8 a.m.-9 p.m.	Living Room (PWA Suite)	Suite 1108
7:30 a.m.-8 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	
8 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	AIDS Institute Opening Plenary	George Rodney Carter Room
9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Session I	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Frank Hall Room Craig Harris Room Audre Lorde Room Pat Parker Room Bayard Rustin Room Bessie Smith Room Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session II	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Frank Hall Room Craig Harris Room Audre Lorde Room Pat Parker Room Bayard Rustin Room Bessie Smith Room Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	AIDS Institute Luncheon	George Rodney Carter Room
1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m.	Session III	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Frank Hall Room Craig Harris Room Audre Lorde Room Pat Parker Room Bayard Rustin Room Bessie Smith Room Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room

3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.	Session IV	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Frank Hall Room Craig Harris Room Audre Lorde Room Pat Parker Room Bayard Rustin Room Bessie Smith Room Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
5:15 p.m.-6 p.m.	Closing Plenary	George Rodney Carter Room
7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.	AIDS Memorial Service	George Rodney Carter Room

Friday, February 18, 1994

7 a.m.-9 p.m.	Registration	
	Vendor's Exhibit	
8 a.m.-9 p.m.	Living Room (PWA Suite)	
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Video Room	Fannie Jackson Room
8 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	
8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.	Womyn's Institute Opening Plenary	Pat Parker Room
	Men's Institute Opening Plenary	Bayard Rustin Room
9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	Womyn's Institute Session I	Audre Lorde Room Bessie Smith Room
	Men's Institute Session I	Bayard Rustin Room
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Womyn's Institute Session II	Audre Lorde Room Bessie Smith Room
	Men's Institute Session II	Bayard Rustin Room
12:35 p.m.-1:50 p.m.	Co-Gender Luncheon	George Rodney Carter Room
2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Womyn's Institute Session III	Pat Parker Room
	Men's Institute Session III	Bayard Rustin Room
3:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m.	Co-Gender Caucus	George Rodney Carter Room
7:00 p.m.-9 p.m.	Opening Ceremony	George Rodney Carter Room
9 p.m.-10 p.m.	Singles Meet and Greet	Pat Parker Room Bayard Rustin Room
9:30 p.m.-12 a.m.	Cultural Event	Exhibition Center
10 p.m.-1 a.m.	PWA Benefit Dance	George Rodney Carter Room

Saturday, February 19, 1994

7 a.m.-6 p.m.	Registration
7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Vendor's Exhibit
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Safe Space Suite
8 a.m.-9 p.m.	Living Room (PWA Suite)

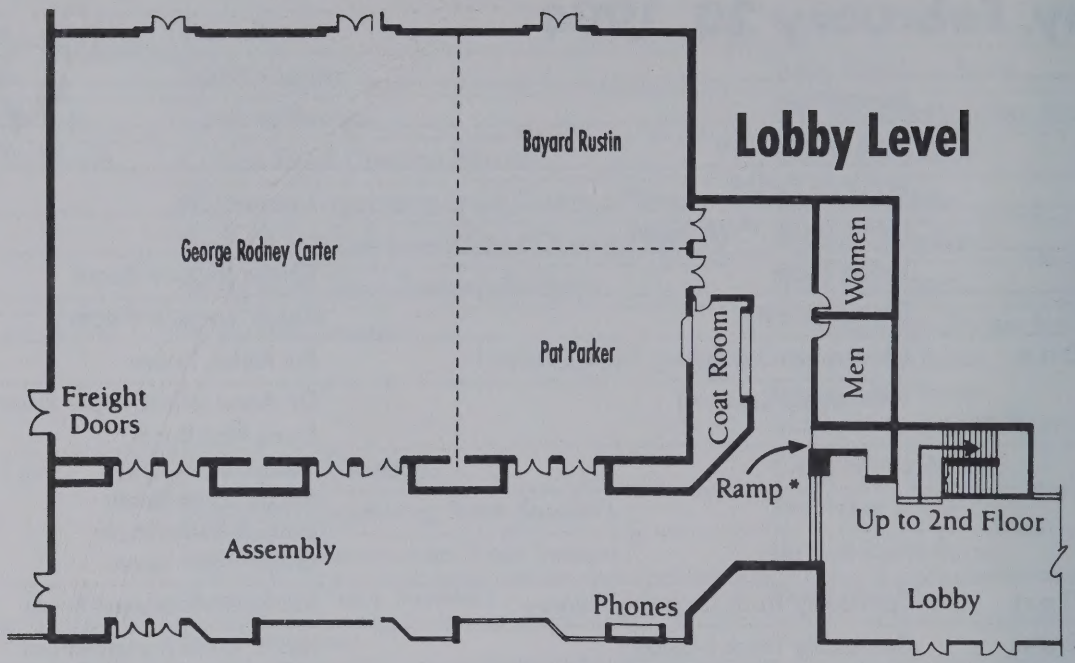
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Video Room	Fannie Jackson Room
8 a.m. -5 p.m.	Digital Queers	Ralph Bland, Jr. Room
8:45am-10:30 a.m.	Opening Plenary	George Rodney Carter Room
10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Cultural Track Opening Plenary	Craig Harris Room
	Grassroots Organizing Track Opening Plenary	Pat Parker Room
	Leadership Development Track Opening Plenary	Bayard Rustin Room
	Young Adult Track Opening Plenary	Frank Hall Room
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Workshops Session I	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Audre Lorde Room Bessie Smith Room Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Cultural Track Session I	Craig Harris Room
	Grassroots Organizing Track Session I	Pat Parker Room
	Leadership Development Track Session I	Bayard Rustin Room
	Young Adult Track Session I	Frank Hall Room
12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Lunch Caucuses	
1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Lunch	
	Cultural Track	
	Grassroots Organizing Track	
	Leadership Development Track	
	Young Adult Track	
2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Workshops Session II	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Audre Lorde Room Bessie Smith Room Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
	Cultural Track Session II	Craig Harris Room
	Grassroots Organizing Track Session II	Pat Parker Room
	Leadership Development Track Session II	Bayard Rustin Room
	Young Adult Track Session II	Frank Hall Room
3:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.	Workshops Session III	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Audre Lorde Room Bessie Smith Room Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
	Cultural Track Session III	Craig Harris Room
	Grassroots Organizing Track Session III	Pat Parker Room
	Leadership Development Track Session III	Bayard Rustin Room
	Young Adult Track Session III	Frank Hall Room
5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.	Womyn's Rap	Bessie Smith Room
	Gay Men's Rap	Craig Harris Room
6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Co-Chairs Reception Sponsored by Gay Men's Health Crisis	Craig Harris/Frank Hall Room
6:45 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Artists Exhibit	
7:30 p.m.-1 a.m.	Awards Banquet and Dance	Grand Ballroom
11:30 p.m.-2 a.m.	After Hours	Womyn-to-Womyn Man-to-Man Room

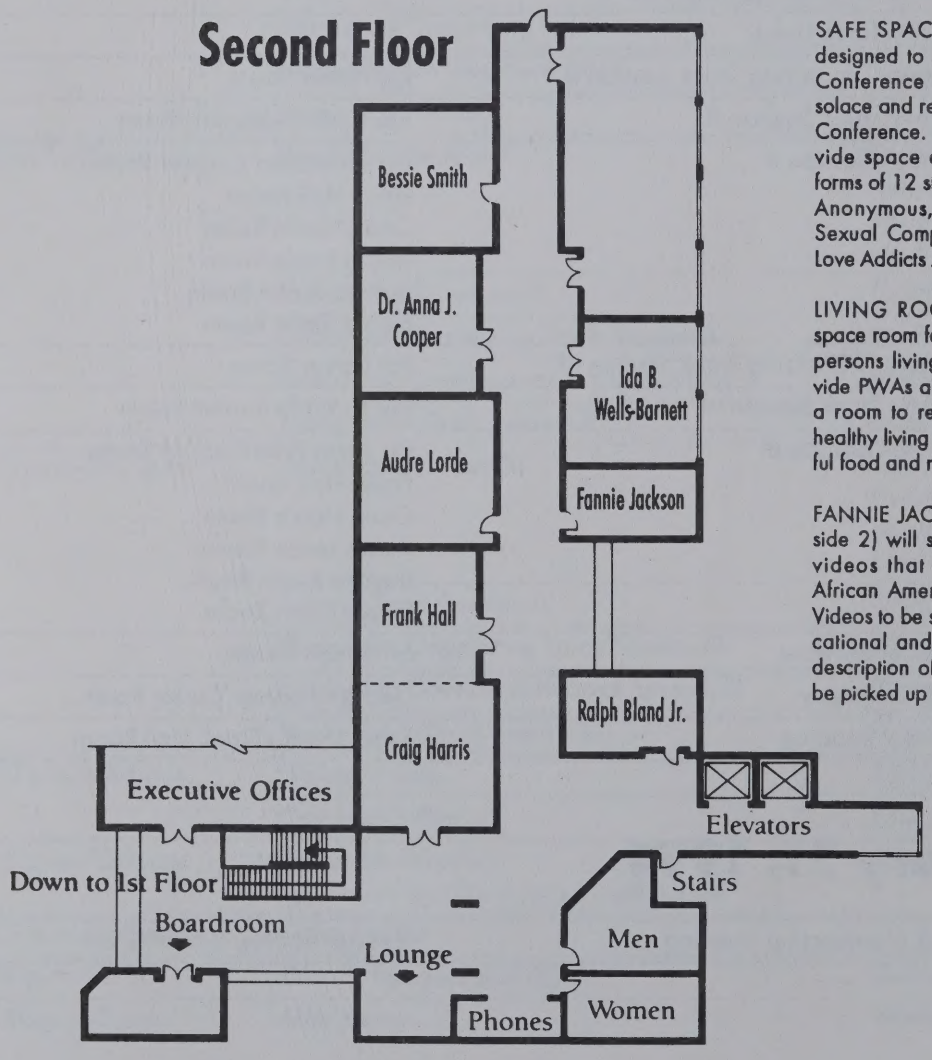
Sunday, February 20, 1994

9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Registration	
9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Safe Space Suite	
	Vendor's Exhibit	
8 a.m.-9 p.m.	Living Room (PWA Suite)	
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Video Room	Fannie Jackson Room
8 a.m. -5 p.m.	Digital Queers	Ralph Bland, Jr. Room
10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Grassroots Organizing Track Session I	Pat Parker Room
	Workshops Session I	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Frank Hall Room Craig Harris Room Audre Lorde Room Bayard Rustin Room Bessie Smith Room
10 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Spirituality Track Opening Plenary	Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Spirituality Track Session I	Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	Lunch Caucuses	
	Grassroots Organizing Track Lunch	
12 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	Spirituality Track Lunch	
1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Grassroots Organizing Track Session II	Pat Parker Room
	Spirituality Track Session II	Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
	Workshops Session II	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Frank Hall Room Craig Harris Room Audre Lorde Room Bayard Rustin Room Bessie Smith Room
2:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.	Grassroots Organizing Track Session III	Pat Parker Room
	Spirituality Track Session III	Ida B. Wells-Barnett Room
	Workshops Session III	Dr. Anna Julia Cooper Room Frank Hall Room Craig Harris Room Audre Lorde Room Bayard Rustin Room Bessie Smith Room
4 p.m.-6 p.m.	Ecumenical Services	Exhibition Center
6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	George Rodney Carter Room
4 p.m.-9 p.m.	Co-Gender Reading	Craig Harris/Frank Hall Room

Monday, February 21, 1994

10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	George Rodney Carter Room

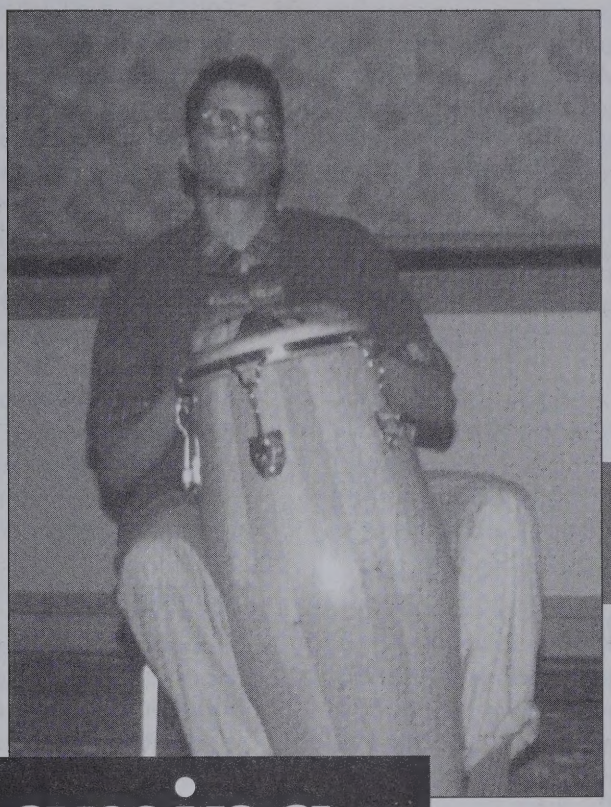




SAFE SPACE SUITE (Room 1212) was designed to create an environment free of Conference activity. Participants can find solace and relaxation in the room during the Conference. In addition, the suite will provide space and time for three facilitated forms of 12 step programs, namely, Cocaine Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Sexual Compulsives Anonymous/Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.

LIVING ROOM (Room 1108) is a safe space room for persons living with AIDS and persons living with HIV. The suite will provide PWAs and persons who are HIV+ with a room to rest and a place for gathering healthy living information. In addition, healthful food and massages will be available.

FANNIE JACKSON VIDEO ROOM (Riverside 2) will showcase both recent and old videos that are relevant to the lives of African American Lesbians and Gay men. Videos to be shown will include cultural, educational and political pieces. A complete description of the videos to be shown may be picked up in the Fannie Jackson Room.



the naming *of the rooms*

In "Naming of the Rooms," the individuals honored reveal a depth and breadth of Black culture and tradition that is unique to the world community. These women and men are true testimony to a rich vein of African American historical thought and contemporary activism.

In selecting those to be honored, particular attention was given to contemporary African American society—politics, law, education, the family, Lesbian and Gay activism, the arts, sports and science. But it was governed by a thorough grounding in what paved the way for the present.

It is not the purpose of "The Naming of the Rooms" to identify any individual on the basis of sexual orientation. This is not an exercise in labeling. Yet, each of the women and men whose names temporarily grace the doors of the Meadowlands Hilton are leaders who enriched our collective heritage. Their achievements, their skills, even the way in which they lived their daily lives, has enriched ours. It is to this reality that we embrace the spirit and idealism of the warriors that have gone on before us and dedicate all conference space.

RALPH BLAND, JR.

Ralph Bland Jr.'s "Layout For Life" began July 14, 1951 in Baltimore, Md. The future graphic designer attended Patterson High School and the University of Maryland, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts. In 1974, he moved to San Francisco, a city he truly loved, where he began his work with the American Red Cross. His desire to pursue his creative skills moved him to Los Angeles to begin a career making things look anything but "bland."

Bland's contributions to the graphic design industry covered a wide spectrum. He worked for Ready Reproduction, Atlantic Richfield Co., ARCO Jessie Owens Games, PPL Record Co., Design Associates and *BLACKfire*. His creations included the Nunions cartoon characters and storybook, Pillow Talk and album covers for various recording companies. He

was the designer of invitations and programs for the Nelson Mandela Freedom Fund. And his entry was selected by the mayor of Los Angeles for naming and designing the logo for the Los Angeles Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH). In addition, his entrepreneurial skills lead him to undertake his own business, Bland Design Group.

Bland generously gave his creative talents in helping numerous community organizations and friends. His talents also went beyond graphics as he wrote the lyrics to many songs including the estimable "Miracle Maker."

Bland found his spiritual connection with the Unity Fellowship Movement to which he devoted his last five years. On March 27, 1993, Ralph made a formal commitment to his life partner, Gregory Hill, who had been by his side for 13 years. Ralph Bland's layout is complete and his design will be in our hearts forever.

GEORGE RODNEY CARTER

Rodney Carter elected to study pharmacy as a lifetime career. In 1961, he received a B.S. degree from the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy and graduated as president of his senior class, his first significant experience at leadership.

During the Martin Luther King, Jr. era he redirected his career to pharmaceutical detailing. The challenges of the business environment led Carter to later accept a position in marketing with IBM. His new position would combine his health care experience with high technology.

In 1986, Carter and a group of men in the community got together to help the Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles acquire a house to be used as an AIDS homeless shelter. The success of this venture led to the formation of Gentlemen Concerned with Rodney Carter as its elected leader.

Carter also served two years on the board of directors of the Minority AIDS Project, was instrumental in the development of the South Central L.A. food bank and served on the development committee as a board member of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

DR. ANNA JULIA COOPER

At the tender age of 11, Anna Julia Cooper performed student-teacher duties at St. Augustine Normal School. Later, she was to return to the institution she had attended in her native city of Raleigh, N.C., to teach for two years with the credentials of a full professor.

Dr. Cooper married Rev. G.A. Cooper in 1877, and four years later left for Oberlin College in Ohio, where she both taught and continued to pursue her own studies. Upon graduation in 1885, she became a professor of modern language and science at Wilberforce University.

However, her primary work in the field of education administration came during her 50 year association with the old M Street High School (later Dunbar) in Washington, D.C. where she served as both instructor and principal. In 1925, at the age of 66, she received her Ph.D. from the Sorbonne in Paris, and later became president of Frelinghuysen University, a school for unemployed Blacks which she ran out of her home in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Cooper was also a published author. She wrote the well-received *A Voice From the South,* a book on the racial relations released in 1892.

Dr. Cooper, who was born in 1858, was 105 years old at the time of her death on February 27, 1964.

FRANK HALL

Willie Franklin Hall was born on May 28, 1947 in Hartsville, S.C. to Robert and Mamie Arthur-Hall, the oldest of their two children.

Frank, as he was known, graduated from Butler High School in Hartsville in 1964. He served in the Army from 1966 to 1968. He was married to Joan K. Kelly on Dec. 5, 1970 and moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he attended Cleveland State University majoring in journalism. After eight years of marriage, he was divorced in 1978. A year later, Hall moved to Los Angeles, Calif. There he worked as a typesetter for such companies as the May Co., *Playgirl* magazine and Capitol Records. He also worked at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Westwood, Calif. as an administrative assistant.

Hall became a member of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church in July of 1989. At Unity, he served on the Usher Board as secretary and was a member of the Cheerful Givers.

On Aug. 21, 1993, Hall was joined in holy union to his life partner of ten years, Ronald W. Smith, in a ceremony at Unity Fellowship performed by Bishop Carl Bean.

Hall is survived by Smith; his sister, Willeen Anderson; ex-wife, Joan K. Hall; and three children: daughter, Germaine; and two sons, Willie Jr.; and Illya, all of Cleveland, Ohio, and a host of loving family and friends.

CRAIG HARRIS

Craig Harris worked as a community health educator, activist, and writer since the early '80s.

He was coordinator of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays's 1986 "AIDS in the Black Community" conference, the Health Education and

Media specialist for the Spectrum AIDS Project of Washington, D.C., the founding co-chair of the National Minority AIDS Council, past chair of the Lesbian/Gay Caucus of Public Health Workers, a former member of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a member of the advisory board of the Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project and acted as the educational program development consultant of the Minority Outreach Project of the Gay Men's Health Crisis. He was also coordinator of AIDS Prevention Program Development of the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

As a writer, his work appeared in numerous publications, including the *Advocate, Gay Community News, New York Native, Outweek, Washington Blade* and in the anthologies *In the Life, Gay Life* and *New Men New Minds*. He also appeared in the video *Tongues Untied,* and at the time of his death, was working on a volume of poems entitled *Hope Against Hope*.

FANNIE JACKSON

Born Jan. 8, 1836, Fannie Jackson became the first Black woman college graduate in the United States.

AUDRE LORDE

Celebrated author and poet Audre Lorde died of cancer at her home in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, at 11:35 p.m. on Nov. 17, 1992. She was born in New York City on February 18, 1934.

Her mother, Linda Belmar, was from Carricou, Grenada, and her father, Fredrick Byron Lorde, was from Barbados. Lorde was a graduate of Hunter College and Columbia University School of Library Science. She was professor of English and held the Thomas Hunter Chair at Hunter College. Lorde lectured throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. She spent many years in Berlin teaching.

Lorde received many honors and awards including Honorary Doctorates of Literature from both Hunter College (1991) and Oberlin College (1989), and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Haverford College (1989).

Among Audre Lorde's many published books is her biomythography, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*. Her collection of essays and journals published as *The Cancer Journals, A Burst of Light* and *Sister Outsider* has been widely reprinted and translated into many languages.

Audre Lorde is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Lorde Rollins; her son, Jonathan F.A. Rollins; her sisters, Helen Lorde and Phyllis Blackwell; her half-sisters, Marjorie Jones and Mavis Jones; her dear friend and close companion, Gloria I. Joseph; cousins, nieces and nephews; and countless friends, colleagues and students on several continents.

PAT PARKER

And so it ends, in stunned silence. Pat Parker succumbed to cancer at 45. She was among those fierce women on the cutting edge of Black Lesbian feminist literature. Parker, like writers Audre Lorde, Ann Allen Shochley, Anita Cornwell, and Barbara Smith, sparked light at the end of a long invisible tunnel surrounding Black Lesbian poetry, fiction and herstory.

A longtime resident of the San Francisco bay area, Parker was born in Houston, Tex. She began writing as a child, and ultimately authored five books of poetry, including *Movement in Black* and *Jonestown and Other Madness,* as well as several essays and articles. Flagrantly out, skillfully honest and always on point, her work illuminated the collusion among racial, sexual and economic oppressions. She utilized rage and humor as equally adept weapons for survival.

Movement in Black
Can't keep 'em back
Movement in Black
Movement in Black

Of her longer verse, "Movement" was Parker's signature piece. While touring across the country, she would frequently invite local Lesbians of Color to join in the reading with her. No one ever turned her down. Pat Parker was as tough as she was tender.

Racial identity and vigilance against racism were as central to Parker's writing as her love of women and her defiance against sexism and homophobia. She remained as proud of her Gayness as she was of her Blackness. She wrote brilliantly of the jeopardy and joy of Black Gay life.

Parker's politics extended beyond the page. She was director of the Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, which serves battered and homeless women and children. She raised two children with her lover. Over the years, her public appearances were curtailed by heart surgery and a mastectomy.

Child
that would be mine
I bring you my world
and bid it be yours
–Legacy

Many will remember that Pat Parker gave herself fully–Black, female, and Lesbian. She was a woman who took risks as easily as breathing, who told us our world, our words, our love were something of value.

BAYARD RUSTIN

Bayard Rustin is best known among Black Lesbians and Gay Men as the openly Gay man who was the

organizer of the historic 1963 March on Washington. But Rustin's range of civil rights activites were much wider than that.

The resident theoretician of the non-violent Civil Rights revolution was a field secretary of the Congress of Racial Equality and the organizer of a New York City school boycott. Rustin believed, as did his mentor A. Philip Randolph, in organizing Blacks to obtain power through hard work programs designed to create full employment, abolish discrimination, reconstruct education and redesign work and leisure.

In 1935, he founded the Young Communist league, leaving it to join the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an anti-war group and forerunner to CORE. In 1947, he led the first freedom ride in North Carolina, was arrested and served 22 days on the chain gang. In 1955, he aided Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Montgomery bus boycott. As special aide to Dr. King, over a seven year period, he drafted the original plans for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and with A. Philip Randolph and others formed the organizing genius for the 1963 March on Washington.

Born in Westchester, Pa., March 17, 1910, Rustin was raised by his grandparents, was a Quaker and attended Chaney State and Wilberforce Colleges. From 1964 until his death August 24, 1987, he headed the influential A. Philip Randolph Institute which he used to bring about radical social change. Rustin said, "a real radical is a person who has a vision of equality and is willing to do the things that will bring reality closer to that vision. In such a social order there will no longer be walls representing fears, insecurity separating people from one another. Such walls whether constructed by whites or Blacks are built to oppress or repress, but never to liberate."

BESSIE SMITH

Bessie Smith has been called the greatest of the women blues singers in jazz.

Born into a poor family in Chattanooga, Tenn., at an unknown date, often cited as April 15, 1898, she began to sing in childhood and was helped into a professional status of sorts through the patronage of the first of the great blues singers, "Ma" Rainey. For several years, she barnstormed through the southern states learning her craft in the gin mills and smaller theaters of Atlanta, Savannah, Birmingham, and Memphis. She was eventually discovered by the pianist-composer Clarence Williams, a representative of Columbia Records and made her first recording in February 1923.

Smith's subject matter was the classic material of the blues: poverty and oppression, love—mostly unrequited—and stoic acceptance of defeat at the hands of a cruel and indifferent world.

Bessie Smith became known in her lifetime as "the empress of the blues," and some idea of her impact can be found in the recordings she made of well over 150 songs, usually with small groups, and always with the outstanding instrumentalists of the day, including Louis Armstrong and Benny Goodman. A bold, supremely confident artist who often disdained the use of a microphone, she was a woman of some physical beauty whose art expressed the frustrations and hopes of a whole generation of African Americans.

Her tall figure and upright stance, above all her handsome features, are preserved in the 1929 motion picture short, St. Louis Blues, banned originally for its realism, but now preserved at the New York Museum of Modern Art.

She died in Clarksdale, Miss., on Sept. 26, 1937, from injuries sustained in a traffic accident. It was said that, had she been white, more speedy medical treatment would have saved her life, and Edward Albee made this the subject of his play *The Death of Bessie Smith.*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT

Seventy years after the account of the first lynchings, Ida B. Wells-Barnett called on U.S. President William McKinley demanding that he intervene. She led the American anti-lynching crusade challenging the presumed "cause" of lynchings—the rape of white women—and identifying the real purpose: to terrorize Blacks to accept the inferior, unequal and subordinate condition in American life. Wells-Barnett lectured throughout the United States and Europe, and in 1895, published *The Red Record,* the first statistical record of lynchings.

Wells-Barnett attended high school at Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss., and spent a year at Fisk University. She taught school for 14 years in Memphis, Tenn., until she was dismissed in 1891 for protesting conditions in Black Schools. In 1892, as part owner of the *Memphis Free Speech* newspaper, she began her anti-lynching campaign. When white mobs destroyed the office, she moved to Chicago where she became associated with another paper, the *Chicago Conservator,* and its editor, Ferdinand Lee Barnett. The two were later married.

Wells-Barnett worked with W.E.B. Dubois to found the Niagara movement, a precursor to the NAACP, and in 1913 founded the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago, the first Black women's suffrage club in America. Wells-Barnett, who was born July 6, 1862, died in December 1931.

THE BLACK GAY and LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM'S

7TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
BLACK GAY and LESBIAN
CONFERENCE AND INSTITUTES:

"Black Lesbians and Gays: From Silence to Celebration... Beyond the 28 Days"

Salutes the following publications for their support and committment to making sure our collective Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Transsexual voices are seen, heard and recorded:

Lesbians of COLOR

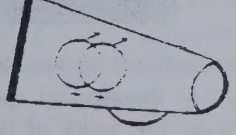
JUST FOR YOU!
an adult publication for Black gay & bisexua MEN

JFY MAGAZINE

SBG
for the afrocentric homosexual you.

BUTI VOXX

THE GRIOT PRESS



COLOURS
"For Progressive Men of Color"

keynote *speakers*

EDEN AJRIAN-OMARI

YOUNG ADULT TRACK OPENING PLENARY

Gay activist, writer/poet, performance artist, educator and former clothing designer, Eden Ajrian-Omari was born in Brooklyn, New York. Ajrian-Omari has lived and studied at various universities and educational institutions including schools in Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland. As a student of Fine Art (painting) he also studied at institutions in California, Washington and Oregon. Ajrian-Omari holds a degree in Women's Sportswear Design from New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology, and a A.A. in Fine Art from Brooklyn College.

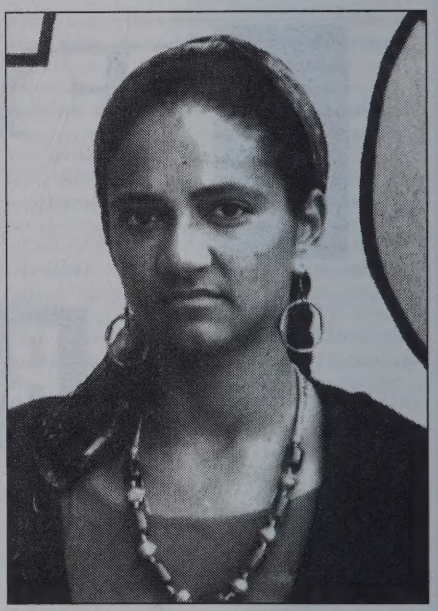
Ajrian-Omari is currently a non-traditional undergraduate at the University of Oregon majoring in Education with a special emphasis on people of color targeted at risk. Ajrian-Omari currently serves as an officer for the University of Oregon's Associated Students Organization, member of the universities Multicultural Affairs Advocates, member of the President's Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, chairs the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Advisory Board, chairs the United States Student Association's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students of Color Coalition and serves as a member of the USAA's Research Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Students of Color.

MICHELLE T. CLINTON

CULTURAL TRACK OPENING PLENARY

Michelle T. Clinton, a poet, performance artist and fiction writer, received a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship in 1992 for her powerful and insightful poetry. In 1991, she won a Vesta Award from the Los Angeles Women's Building for her contribution to the arts community as a feminist and a radical healer. She received an American Book Award in 1990.

As a poet, fiction writer, performance artist and teacher, she punctuates her work with both fury and compassion. As a feminist and African American, she energetically engages the world around her. Clinton is widely known and celebrated as an energetic vibrant reader and skilled craftswoman. She has read nationally and internationally, lectured on sexism and feminist creative process. She has developed and performed literary presentations on the work of the African American

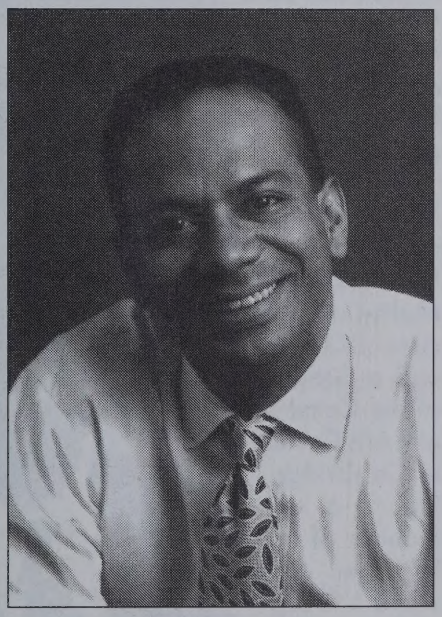


women writers. Clinton has taught literature and creative writing at Occidental College, Otis Parsons School of Design, Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center and U.C.L.A. Extension.

MARIO COOPER

OPENING PLENARY

Mario Cooper, 38, was appointed by Chairman Ronald H. Brown as the Convention Manager for the 1992 Democratic National Convention during the Spring of 1991. As Convention Manager, Cooper was responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the Convention. He oversaw a staff of approximately 200 people, and had fiscal responsibility for a budget of approximately $12 million. Additionally, he coordinated the expenditure of $27.6 million in New York public and private funds.



Cooper's professional career has included an appointment to The White House Staff where he served on the Advance Team of President Jimmy Carter, which was responsible for coordinating the President's domestic and foreign travels. In addition to extensive work on several local and national campaigns, Cooper has served as the Deputy Conference Director for the 1978 Democratic National Mid-Term Conference in Memphis, Tenn.; executive director of the Association of State Democratic Chairs and as the Podium Producer for the 1988 Democratic National Convention.

Cooper practiced law in Washington, D.C. for a large, private law firm prior to joining the Democratic National Committee as Deputy Chief of Staff in 1990. He is a senior vice president of Porter/Novelli, a major national public relations firm. At Porter/Novelli he advises clients on how to impact public opinion, and on the strategic use of media to influence public policy.

Born in Mobile, Ala., Cooper attended boarding schools in California and Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Middlebury College and Georgetown University Law Center.

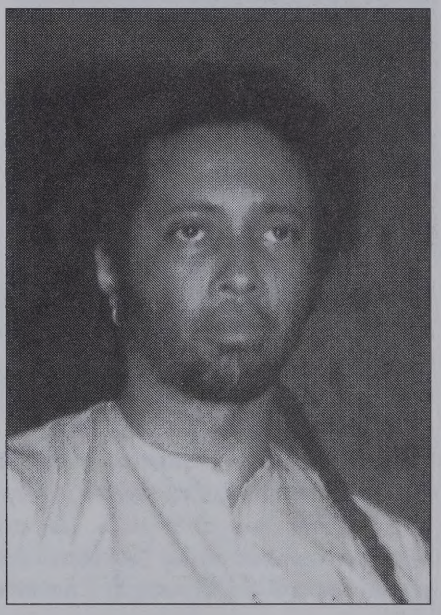
Cooper serves on the Executive Committee of the AIDS Action Council, and on the Boards of the Whitman-Walker Clinic and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He is a frequent guest on the United States Information Agency's Worldnet democracy programs.

DR. ELIAS FARAJAJE-JONES

MEN'S INSTITUTE OPENING PLENARY

Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones, a Spanish-speaking Afrikan Native American (Tsalagi/Cherokee), is an anarchist guerrilla theologian-AIDS terrorist-writer-cultural critic-performance artist-ritual technician. He is a queer-identified bisexual man who lives and agitates in the colonial territory known as the District of Columbia.

He graduated with honors as one of the first two men of Afrikan descent from Vassar College at the age of 19, winning the Elizabeth Skinner Hubbard Fellowship for graduate study in religion. He went on to do a master's in Eastern Christianity *magna cum laude*, graduating at the top of his class at the age of 22. After studying in Rome for a year, he became the first person of Afrikan descent to complete a doctorate in the History of Religions at the University of Bern in Switzerland. His doctoral specialty was Afrikan religions and his degree was awarded *magna cum laude*.



He has studied acupuncture and is part of a theater and performance art collective where he specializes in creating works dealing with shamanism and androgyny. He is also active in the Lesbian and Gay movement and helped staff a French language Lesbian and Gay hotline.

KRISTINE M. GEBBIE

AIDS INSTITUTE CLOSING PLENARY

Kristine M. Gebbie, R.N., M.N., is President Clinton's National AIDS Policy Coordinator, and is currently working to develop the Administration's AIDS Policy. Prior to her appointment, Gebbie served as Secretary of the Department of Health for the State of Washington.

She has a lengthy career history in the health field and public policy. She has served as a public health official in the state of Oregon, and was a past coordinator of ambulatory care for St. Louis University Hospital. Gebbie also taught health courses at the University of Washington, the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, and St. Louis University.

She is active in many professional organizations, and has served as a member of the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association. She also has been a member of the HIV Committee of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, she has chaired the Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on the Prevention of HIV Infection, and she has chaired the Environment, Safety and Health Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Energy. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine, and has served on its AIDS Oversight Committee.

MAYOR KENNETH E. REEVES

OPENING CEREMONY

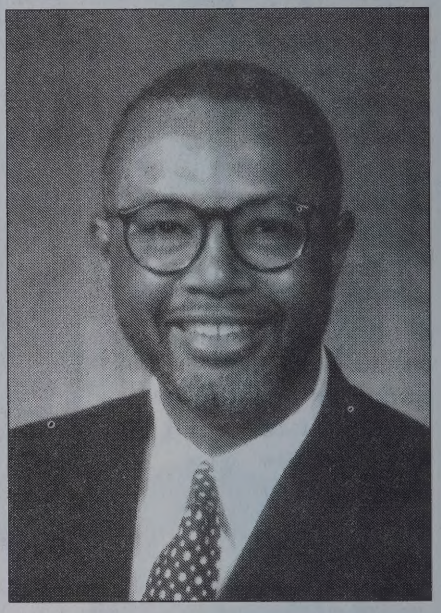
Kenneth E. Reeves, a practicing attorney who specializes in civil law, is the mayor of Cambridge, Mass. He is also Black and openly Gay.

A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, he was the recipient of the Michael Clark Rockefeller Fellowship from Harvard for study and travel in Africa (Benin). He also received an International Studies Fellowship from the University of Michigan Law School to study Social Welfare Legislation and Social Policy in Stockholm, Sweden.

Prior to entering private practice in Cambridge, he served as managing attorney of the General Motors/-United Auto Workers Legal Services Plan in Natick, Mass.

Active in Cambridge politics, he served as vice mayor prior to his current serving as mayor, and is a member of the Cambridge Democratic City Committee and a member of the Ward 7 Democratic Committee.

He has served as a member of the board of directors of the Museum of Afro-American History and chairperson of the Museum's Program Committee. He has served as corporator of the Handel & Haydn Society. He is a corporator of Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc., member of the Hastings House Committee and a chairperson of the board of directors of Videmus, a musical association which focuses on the music of Afro-American and female composers.



In addition, he is the vice president of the Cambridge Multi-Cultural Arts Center and a director of the Community Arts Center in Cambridge. He is a co-founder of the William Edward Burghardt DuBois Academy, an enrichment program for male children of African descent and the founder of Concerned Black Men of Cambridge. He is also a director of the Cambridge Haitian American Association and founder of the Cambridge Orchestra Chorale, a multicultural musical effort of the Cambridge Arts Council.

Mayor Reeves is the first openly African American Gay mayor in the United States.

REV. SANDRA L. ROBINSON

SPIRITUALITY TRACK OPENING PLENARY

Rev. Sandra L. Robinson is a graduate of United Theological, Trinity Lutheran and Pontifical College Josephenum Seminaries. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Robinson is presently the president and chief executive officer of Samaritan College, an international, professional school of ministry for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches which provides pastors and laity non-homophobic theological education.

Widely published in theological and secular fields, Robinson is currently engaged in research which documents the contributions that womyn of color are making to Christian Liberation Theology.

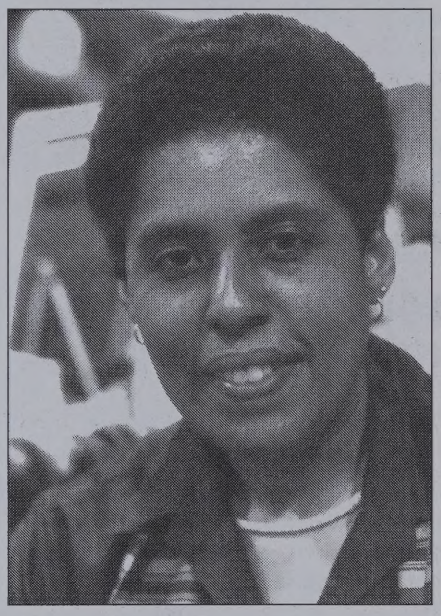
BARBARA SMITH

CLOSING CEREMONY

Barbara Smith is a Black feminist activist and writer who has been politically active since the '60s when she became involved in the civil rights movement as a high school student in Cleveland, Ohio. During college she participated in Black student organizing and in the anti-Vietnam war movement. Since the early '70s, she has been committed to Black women's issues including organizing for reproductive freedom, quality health care and for freedom from sexist and racist violence. She has also been outspoken as a Lesbian and has continually challenged heterosexism through her political work and writing.

In 1974 she was one of the co-founders of the Combahee River Collective, a multi-issued Black feminist organization which did political organizing in Boston from 1974 through 1980. In 1980, she co-founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press and is currently the publisher of Kitchen Table, the only U.S. publisher for Women of Color. She served on the board of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays from 1985 through 1988. She is a member of the Feminist Action Network of Albany, N.Y. Originally founded in 1989 to do organizing against racism and homophobia, FAN is currently committed to doing AIDS education in Albany's Black community.

Smith's articles, essays, literary criticism and short stories have appeared in a variety of publications including *The Nation, The Black Scholar, The New York Times Book Review, Ms., The Village Voice, The Guardian,* and *Gay Community News.* She has edited three major collections about Black women: *Conditions: Five, The Black Women's Issue* (with Lorriane Bethel), 1979; *All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies* (with Gloria T. Hull and Patricia Bell Scott), 1982; and *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology,* 1983. She is also the co-author with Elly Bulkin and Minne Bruce Pratt of *Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism,* 1984.



Smith has been a guest on *Donahue,* Charlie Rose's *Nightwatch,* and *Tony Brown's Journal* and has appeared in several films including *Pink Triangles* and Marlon Riggs' forthcoming *Black Is, Black Ain't.*

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio and lived in Boston for nine years from 1972 until 1981. She now lives in Albany, N.Y.

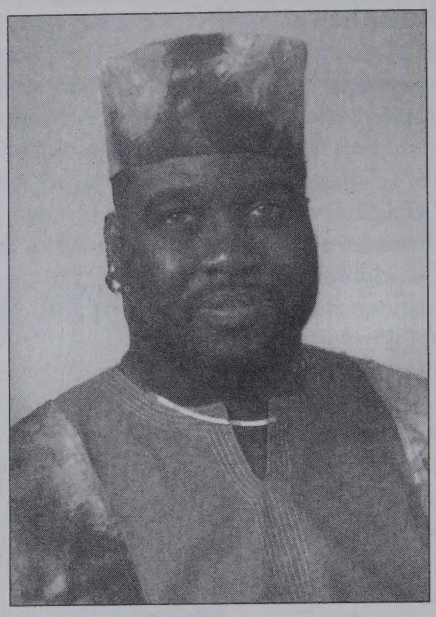
JAMES (JAMIE) WASHINGTON

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPENING PLENARY

James (Jamie) Washington is currently working in two capacities: assistant to the vice president for Student Affairs and coordinator for Multicultural Affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and as the senior consultant and founder of New Visions, a multicultural organizational develop-

ment firm based in Baltimore.

A native of Philadelphia, Washington holds a B.S. degree from Slippery Rock College in Therapeutic Recreation and Music, and a double Master's of Science in Education degree from Indiana University in Bloomington in Higher Education/Student Affairs Administration and in Counseling/-Counselor Education with a concentration in Human Sexuality. He also serves as a mentor to African American male youth and as the minister of music at Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church, Baltimore, Md.



ROBERT P. WASSON, JR.

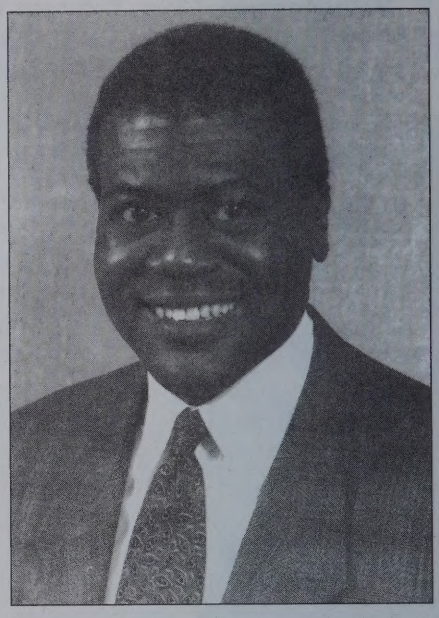
CO-GENDER LUNCHEON

Robert P. Wasson, Jr., is a professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston where he teaches Federal Civil Procedure, Federal Courts, Jurisprudence and Sexual Orientation and the Law.

He graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1976 with a B.A. in Government and wrote a thesis on Black politics in Boston. A summary of his findings was published on the Op-Ed page of *The Boston Globe*. He graduated from Harvard in 1979 and wrote a thesis on the legal, moral and ethical considerations arising from non-treatment of defective newborns. Upon graduating, he clerked with corporate law firms in Chicago and Boston before turning to teaching.

Professor Wasson's scholarly writings have included an examination of sexuality and the heritage of western religion as a contributor to a book on Gay and Lesbian life. He has also written a book chapter and three extensive papers on the nature of legal responses to the HIV epidemic in the United States, the Third World and Japan. One paper in progress addresses the relationship between democracy and respect for the rights of criminal offenders in the Third World. The other addresses constitutional problems with a mandatory pro bono requirement for doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

Professor Wasson was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Nairobi in Kenya from 1991-92. In 1993 he delivered papers before the annual meeting of the Research Association of Minority Professors in Houston, and at Doshisha University Law School in Kyoto, Japan. While in Japan, he advised lawyers representing hemophiliacs who have sued the Japanese government and five large pharmaceutical companies for providing them with HIV contaminated blood products. He just completed a one-year term as chairman of the Association of American Law School section on Gay and Lesbian legal issues.



EVELYN C. WHITE

WOMYN'S INSTITUTE OPENING PLENARY

Evelyn C. White is the editor of *Black Women's Health book: Speaking For Ourselves* (Seal Press, 1990). Now in its third printing, The *Black Women's Health Book* has received wide critical acclaim and numerous awards including the 1991 Publications award from the Black Health Research Fund in New York.

White is a co-author of the photography book, *The African Americans* (Viking/Penguin, 1993). Her book *Chain Chain Change: For Black Women Dealing with Physical and Emotional Abuse* (Seal Press, 1985), is based on research she conducted while employed as a legal advocate for the Seattle City Attorney's Family Violence Project in the early '80s.

The recipient of an AT&T Fellowship, White earned a master's in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1991. She was a visiting scholar at Radcliffe College during the 1991-92 academic year. A 1985 graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, White received the school's Christopher Trump Award for her master's the-

sis, *The Racial Development of Blind Black Children*. She is a 1976 graduate of Wellesley College.

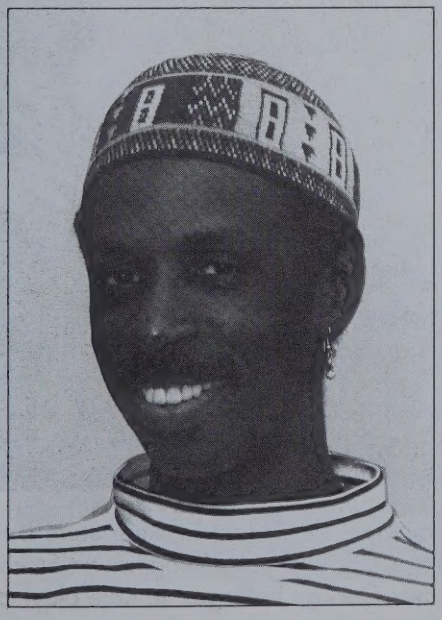
White was a reporter intern at the *Wall Street Journal* before joining the reporting staff of the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1986. Her writing has been featured in a variety of publications including *Smithsonian* and *Essence* magazines, *The Seattle Times*, *The San Francisco Review of Books* and *Sojourner*.

In addition to her duties at the *Chronicle*, White serves on the board of directors of the Sister Fund in New York and the Soapstone Women's Writing Retreat in Oregon.

REGGIE WILLIAMS

AIDS INSTITUTE OPENING PLENARY

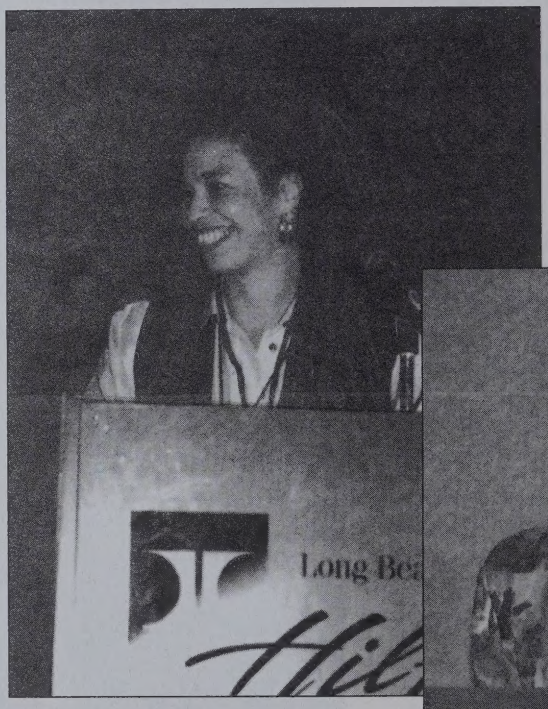
Reggie Williams hails from Cincinnati. Now a long time active member of the San Francisco Gay community, Williams has been at the forefront of the AIDS epidemic since 1982. He first worked as a radiology technologist, and now as the founder and executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. Williams is an AIDS activist who consistently relates his own experiences as an HIV positive Black Gay man to the other problems evident for black people as a whole.



'93 conference recap

BY SHAWN HINDS

"We said we were gonna give the children a conference, and we gave them a conference," said Jonathan D. Poullard, co-chair of the Sixth Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. These were only some of the words of pride and approval voiced at the general membership meeting at the end of the highly successful weekend at the Long Beach Hilton, Feb. 11-15, 1993.



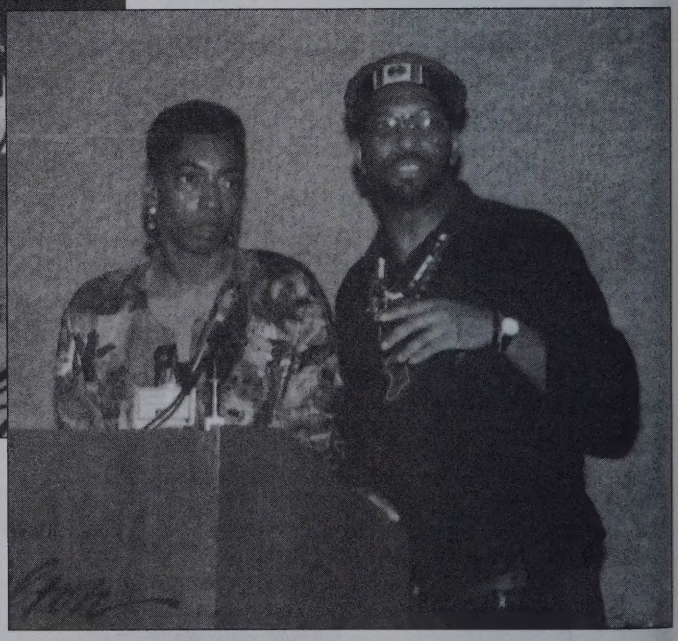
Unprecedented attendance was only one of several "firsts" in the growing annual event. Over 125 HIV/AIDS scholarships enabled some to attend who otherwise could not have afforded it. No such scholarships were available last year.

Extremely well-received was the Living Room, a hotel suite designated as a safe space for persons living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses. Conceived and staffed by the AIDS Prevention Team, a project of the Forum, APT members provided visitors with wheat grass, cranberry juice, fruits and information on holistic treatment and health maintenance. Even massages were provided. People were also welcome to just come and hang out.

Conference co-chair and recently named Forum co-chair Vallerie Wagner credits a "strong steering committee" with the successful planning of the conference. She recalls having dinner with co-chair Poullard when they came up with this year's theme. "We had been talking about bridging the gaps between lesbians and gays and making connections with the larger African-American community, and it grew from that."

Nationally recognized leaders presenting workshops and speaking at the conference included Angela Davis, Dr. Marjorie Hill, Essex Hemphill and bell hooks.

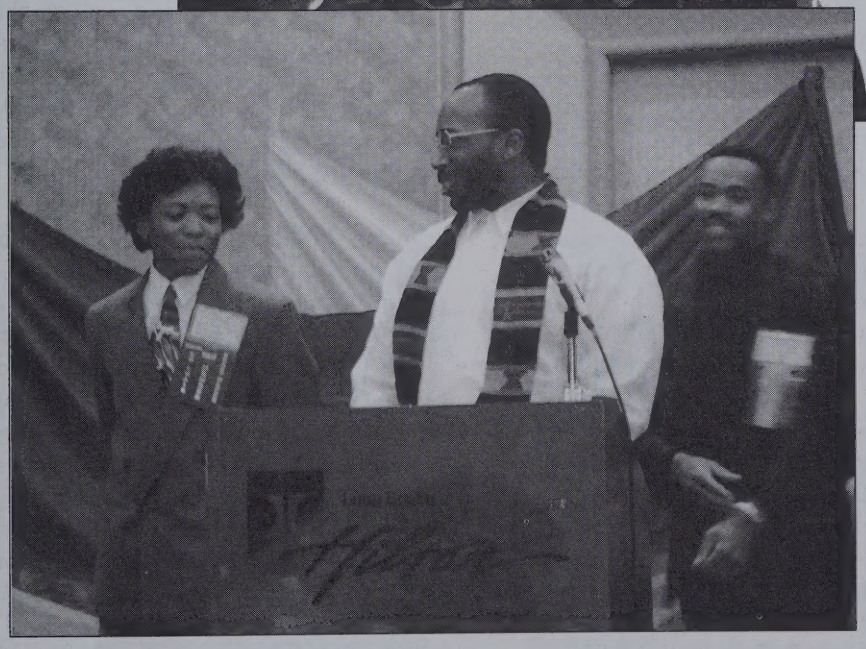
On Friday, the Women's Institute sought to explore the diversity of lesbian sisterhood, while the brand new Men's Institute worked to strengthen black gay male consciousness. Both then came together in the afternoon for the Co-



Gender Caucus, led by Kent State University administrator and counselor Vengerflutta Smith and AIDS educator George Bellinger, Jr. Role playing games, discussions and arguments helped men and women confront

and deal with assumptions they had about the other as they try to work together in the movement.

Like many other presenters, Smith and Bellinger left their participants wanting more. "We got a lot of work done," said Smith, "by clearing the air not so much about each other, but about our assumptions about each others agendas."



Davis, who enthralled a full house in the Audre Lorde Room at Saturday's Plenary, spoke eloquently on the need to identify oppression of lesbians and gay men, as a twin oppression to sexism and misogyny, and interlocking with racism, classism and discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the military.

Sunday's Ecumenical service led by Bishop Carl Bean of Unity Fellowship Church defined the last day.

Members of the congregation stood and gave testimony to living with HIV/AIDS and finding the spiritual compass in the Unity Fellowship movement, often lost in the churches in which they were raised. What became an unlikely place to seek fellowship and communion with God became at times like a concert hall, as curious passersby watched from a terrace level above—curious but respectful of the music and rejoicing that filled the space.

Sunday evening's showstopper, however, was feminist, cultural critic and theorist Bell Hooks. Hooks, a self-described heterosexual, who because of her feminist and pro-sexual freedom politics is frequently called lesbian, spoke on issues of sexual freedom, the importance of moving out of one's "comfort zone" at home and at work to combat invisibility and sexual oppression. Next year's conference, "From Silence to Celebration," will be on the east coast Feb. 17-21. Vallerie Wagner heads up the planning once again, this time with new co-chair Russell E. Thornhill.

"I've been impacted in a very positive way by this conference," said Thornhill, a Forum member who this year edited the Conference program. "There has been a call to action for all who attended this conference as well as a call to continue my own coming out process."

stonewall *who did what the night the modern lesbian and gay movement began*

BY MARK HAILE

June 27, 1969, The Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street, Greenwich Village, New York: What had been a shabby little bar off Sheridan Square in New York's West Village would influence nearly every Gay man and Lesbian living in America today.

The impact of what happened at the Stonewall Inn has been overrated, some critics say, yet veterans of the Gay Pride movement note with amusement how many people claim to have been there.

Gay bars had a short life span in the 60s. Election year would precipitate raids on a regular basis. Developers used heavy handed methods to get hold of desirable property. The mob looked on popular Lesbian and Gay bars as targets for takeover. Rarely was there any resistance to any of these threats–especially when bar owners also had to pay out to the cop on the beat just to stay in existence.

Bars with a Black Lesbian and Gay following opened and closed on a regular basis all across New York City. In the Village, they were usually racially mixed Gay bars like the Grapevine or Gianni's, while in Harlem they were usually all Black, like Snooky's, the Purple Manor, or the Dug-out, to name a few, but tended to blend straight and Gay clientele.

Prior to the depression, Harlem enjoyed the title of Negro capital of the United States–home to the nation's most talented Black artists, writers and musicians. Clubs like the Hot Cha and Lulu Belle's rivaled the best bars of today's Lesbian and Gay scene. The Savoy Ballroom, originally at Lenox and 140th Street, was the hot spot in the 1920s for the Black Gay drag balls that had been in existence since the 1890s, making them the longest continuously operating Gay event in American History.

By that muggy summer of 1969, however, Harlem was scarcely the mecca for America's Black cultural elite.

It was hot and humid that Friday, June 27, as it had been and would be for weeks on end.

The crowd that weekend was anything but politically charged. Over 20,000 people had waited up to four hours in the searing heat to view the body of Judy Garland at the Frank & Campbell Funeral Home at 81st and Madison Ave. Thousands thronged the street afterwards, with time on their hands and nothing to do.

In the 1950s, the Stonewall Inn had been an elegant dinner house, with an enormous flagstone fire place. A long bar dominated the far right wall of the two adjoining store fronts that made up the interior.

The Stonewall Inn went through a succession of owners through the late 50s and 60s as the area around Sheridan Square fell upon hard times, and the bar eventually garnered a Gay clientele. Even as the riots were getting under way that humid weekend in defense of the Stonewall, there was another effort underway elsewhere to start a boycott against it and other bars like it. Shabby Gay bars like the Stonewall were perceived by some as more of a threat to the health and self-image of Lesbians and Gays than the safe haven from persecution they offered.

Long time Christopher Street bookstore owner Craig Rodwell says that between the police and the Mafia, no one could open a Gay bar in 1968 with "a healthy social atmosphere." The Stonewall was suspected of being responsible for a local outbreak of hepatitis because of the accusation it was unsanitary.

When Lt. Pine and seven other policemen set out that night for the Stonewall, it was to have been a routine raid like the several others in the weeks before. A deputy inspector from the Public Morals section of the first division of the New York Policement Department, Lt. Pine really had it in for the Lesbian and Gay clubs.

The search warrant brought by Pine was for investigation of reports that liquor was being sold illegally and that the club was operating without a license.

Sometime early Saturday morning, the police began their raid of the bar they referred to as "well known for its homosexual clientele." Upon serving the warrant, detectives began taking inventory of the liquor they were about to confiscate. Patrons were usually allowed to leave after their I.D. was checked, however, those "suspected of cross-dressing," were to be taken to the precinct for questioning and eventually released.

Those permitted out of the bar stood by Sheridan Square, waiting for friends still inside.

There had been about 200 people inside the bar, but now the crowd outside had doubled in size as passers-by watched the show, and those exiting the bar shouted and shrieked to their friends, posing grandly.

A South American student fearful of being deported leapt from the third story window while in custody at the Charles Street Police Station, impaling himself on the spikes atop the facility's surrounding wrought iron fence. Although he survived the fall, he was maimed for life, and sensational photographs of the incident made the front pages of the New York tabloids. For the homosexual community, it inflamed an already long, hot summer.

The mood shifted quickly when three drag queens were taken from the bar and placed in the police paddy wagon. The crowd began shouting at the policemen, but the real confrontation was yet to take place.

The next person taken out of the bar struggled with the police every step of the way. This visual cue motivated the crowd; no one person led the charge, no one directed the energy of the throng.

What happened next was described as "a rampage" by the *New York Times*. The crowd started throwing everything and anything they could get their hands on at the startled police. A parking meter was uprooted as the policemen barricaded themselves inside the bar amid a shower of pennies, bricks and bottles.

Tactical patrol force units, a new anti-riot squad designed specifically for use in Harlem, were brought in to clear the area. Thirteen people were arrested that evening with four policemen reported slightly injured.

When the Stonewall reopened the following night serving only soft drinks, the tactical patrol force units appeared shortly after 2 a.m. to clear the crowd that had gathered along Christopher Street and in Sheridan Square.

The riot squad, linked arm to arm the width of the street, dispersed the crowd between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Those who didn't escape down the numerous, narrow alleys and side streets in time were clubbed and shoved to the ground. This time, only three people were arrested, but many more were injured or involved in confrontations as the police broke ranks and charged into the crowd.

On the second night of fighting with the police, Gay graffiti appeared all over the street and the shouts included, "Gay Power." Numerous flyers were passed out among the crowd.

Even though they started out as an unruly mob without direction or leadership, something emerged and electrified the Lesbians and Gay men who filled Sheridan Square.

The Inn remained closed after the riots, covered with slogans such as "Gay Rights Now" and "Legalize Gay Bars."

It took those who had the least to lose, the Black and Latino drag queens, to forego "acceptable behavior" and reject obedience to authority to become catalysts for the birth of the modern Lesbian and Gay pride movement.

No group or individual can claim responsibility for the resistance offered that weekend. The credit belongs to a handful of people who have since been forgotten, jettisoned by a movement that continues to reflect conformity as the years pass.

The names of those who fought that first battle for Lesbian and Gay rights have largely passed into obscurity, yet their legacy has been embraced by the entire nation's Lesbian and Gay community, with a profound effect on the course of the lives of millions.

Lesbians and Gay men have a gift of love to give to the entire world, so, too, did those anonymous Black and Latino Lesbians and Gay men at the Stonewall Inn, give the precious gift of life to an entire movement.

A version of this article appeared in the June 1989 issue of BLK.

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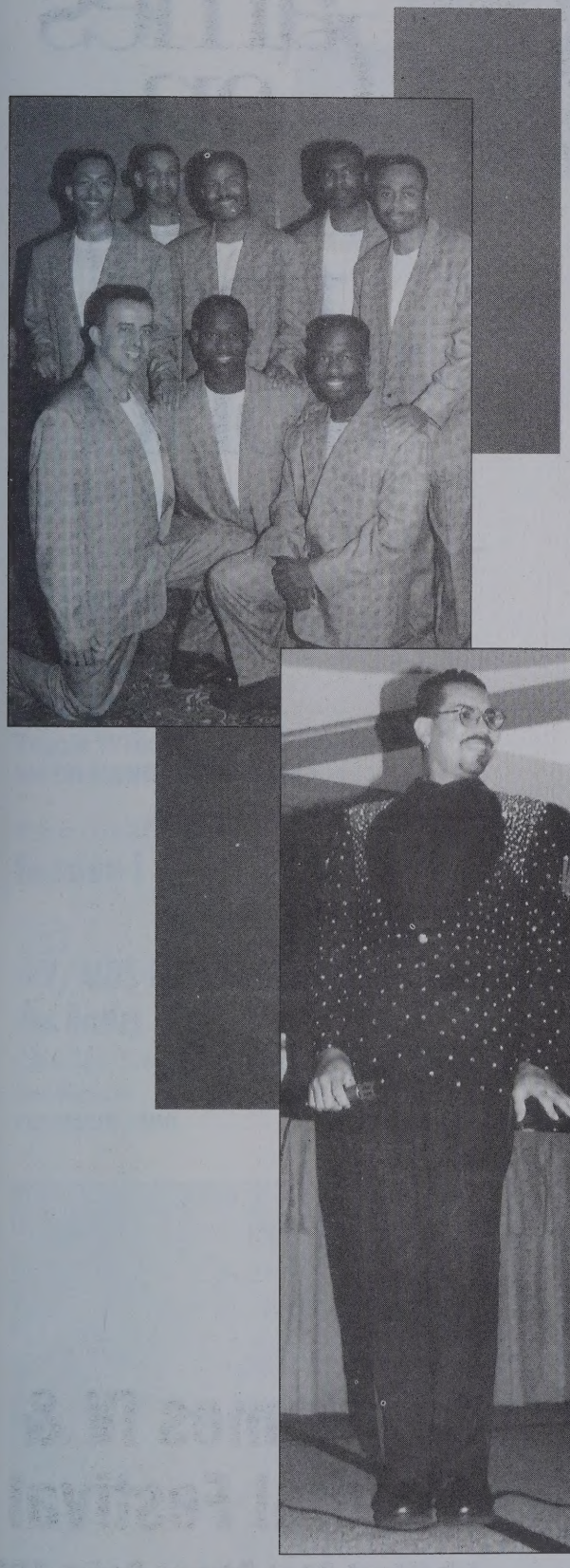

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
'Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
That the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope
That the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun
Let us march on 'till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in days when hope unborn has died
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place
For which our fathers sighed?
We have come, over a way
That with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path
Through the blood of the Slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last,
Where the white gleam
Of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us
Thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might,
led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine
Of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our Native Land.

Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival is an international Olympic-style sporting event open to all. More than 15,000 athletes and thousands of cultural participants are expected to participate in 31 team and individual sports and a variety of artistic disciplines. Gay Games IV will occur from June 18–25, 1994 in venues throughout New York City.

Games Can Change the World

Registration is currently underway. During the months of February and March, members of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum are eligible to receive a coupon waiving the $50.00 registration late fee. Call Chris Fowler at 212.633.9494 to receive your coupon. Don't miss out on this tremendous event!

- **Register today** before your preferred sport fills up: 212.633.9494
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Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival
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New York, NY 10010

aids *institute*

Thursday, February 17, 1994

7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Registration

7:30 a.m.-8 a.m.
Continental Breakfast

8 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
Opening Plenary
Reggie Williams, *Keynote Speaker*
GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Session I

[CT]
HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials: The Basics and Only the Basics
Charles Nelson, Floyd Dunn and Jerome Boyce, *Facilitators*
PAT PARKER ROOM

Keys to Symbols

[A]	Administration
[CT]	Clinical Trials
[CS]	Client Services
[EI]	Early Intervention
[EP]	Education and Prevention
[MH]	Mental Health
[PP]	Public Policy
[SA]	Substance Abuse
[T]	Treatment
[Y]	Youth
[W]	Women

[EP]
What Is Sex Positive?
Robert Penn, *Facilitator*
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

[MH]
The Benefits of Peer Advocacy in the HIV Infected African-American Gay/Lesbian/Transgender Communities
Carl Stokes, *Facilitator*
AUDRE LORDE ROOM

[EI]
Holistic Approach to Health Maintenance for People with HIV/AIDS
Rev. Rainey Cheeks and Dr. Ron Simmons, *Facilitators*
IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

[EP]
Dating/Relationships Across Sero-Status: A Panel Discussion
George Bellinger, Jr. and Wendell O'Neill, *Facilitators*
FRANK HALL ROOM

[A]
Lesbians Working in the Male World Of HIV/AIDS: A Panel Discussion Among Sisters
Jacquie Bishop, *Facilitator*
BESSIE SMITH ROOM

[Y]
Untilled Soil: Working with Black Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and HIV/AIDS
Lawrence D. Abrams and Paterick Thomas, *Facilitators*
CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

[SA]

Celebrating and Having Fun Sober!

Roy A. Becoat, Facilitator

DR. ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Session II

[Y]

Black Youth Living with HIV/AIDS: Tell Their Stories

Mishea Zurie, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

[SA]

Culturally Competent Interventions for Drug Dependent Black Lesbians and Gays

Imani Woods, *Facilitator*

DR. ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

[EI]

Holistic Approach to Health Maintenance for People with HIV/AIDS

Rev. Rainey Cheeks and Dr. Ron Simmons, *Facilitators*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

[CT]

New Guidelines for Anti-Retroviral Therapy for Adult HIV Infected Person: Impact on Client and Personal Therapy Options

Charles Nelson, Floyd Dunn and Jerome Boyce, *Facilitators*

PAT PARKER ROOM

[CS]

Caring for Homeless People of Color with HIV Disease

Brian Van Buren, *Facilitator*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

[EP]

AIDS Prevention Public Health Campaign Targeting HIV+ People of Color

Robert Penn, *Facilitator*

FRANK HALL ROOM

[W]

Implementing Effective HIV/STD Prevention Education to African American Lesbian Communities in Small Rural States

Darlene Hudson and Kathy Nichols, *Facilitators*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

[MH]

Coming Out of the Closet; Skill Building in Disclosing One's Sexual Orientation and HIV Status

Roger Quinny, *Facilitator*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Luncheon Plenary: Unsung Heroines: African-American Lesbians Working in HIV/AIDS

Darlene Hudson, Imani Woods, Saundra Johnson, Yvette C. Burton and Jacquie Bishop, *Panelists*

GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

Session III

[EP]

Issues of Prevention and Maintenance for HIV Negative Men

George Bellinger, Jr., *Facilitator*

FRANK HALL ROOM

[SA]

The Role of 12 Step Programs in Successful Addiction Recovery

Robert Turner and Imani Woods, *Facilitators*

DR. ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

[MH]

Transforming Your Relationship with Men: AKA Male Bonding

Kevin D. Green and Hal Carter, *Facilitators*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

[W]

Herstories: African-American Lesbians Living with HIV: A Panel Discussion

Saundra Johnson, *Facilitator*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

[T]

HIV/AIDS: The Art and Science of Healing

Siri Sat Nam, *Facilitator*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

[EP]

The House of Latex Project: Voguing the Message: A Model of Behavior Change for Lesbian and Gay Young Adults

Howard Torrence Allen, *Facilitator*

PAT PARKER ROOM

[CS]

Providing Culturally Competent Services to Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

Jubi D. Headleya and Joseph C. Cardozo, *Facilitators*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

[EI]

Town Meetings: A Model for Early Intervention of HIV

Joei Dykes, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

Session IV

[EP]

Maintenance for HIV Negative Men: A Further Discussion

Gavin Morrow-Hall, *Facilitator*

FRANK HALL ROOM

[SA]

Issues for the Black, Gay, HIV Positive, Sober Man

Edward W. Jervis III and Imani Wood, *Facilitators*

DR. ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

[T]

New Options in Alternative Therapies for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

John Brisbane, *Facilitator*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

[CT]

Future Direction of HIV Research and Research Strategies

Charles Nelson, *Facilitator*

PAT PARKER ROOM

[MH]

Transforming Your Relationship with Men: AKA Male Bonding

Kevin D. Green and Hal Carter, *Facilitators*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

[CS]

Caregiving in a Cultural Context for African-Americans with AIDS

Sharara Lauren Godfrey, *Facilitator*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

[EI]

Myths...Fears...Claim It Anyway! The African-American Community Response to AIDS

Willis Green Jr. and Darrell P. Wheeler, *Facilitators*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

[EP]

Developing and Targeting Outreach Programs for and to African-American Gay and Bisexual Men in the South

Anthony Morris, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

5:15 p.m.-6 p.m.

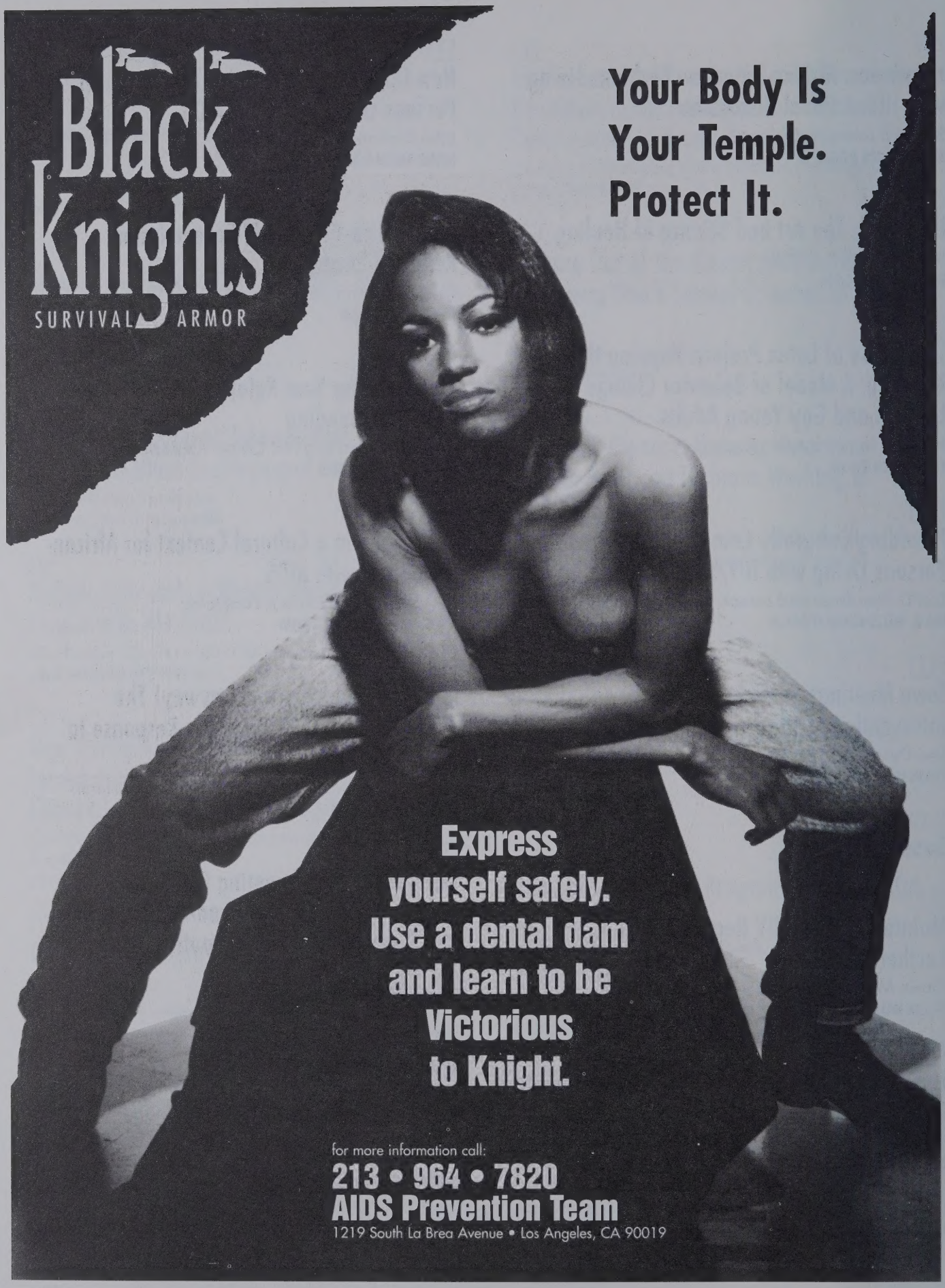
Closing Plenary

Kristine M. Gebbie, *Keynote Speaker*

GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

AIDS Memorial Service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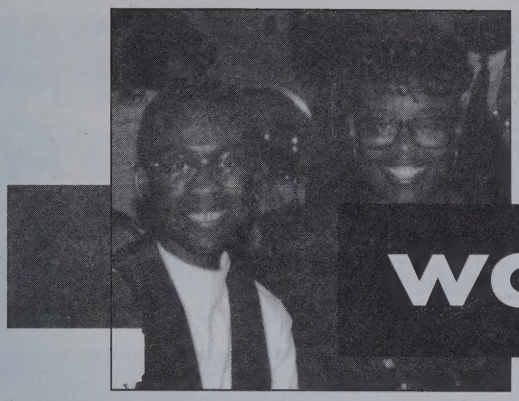

womyn's institute

The 1994 Womyn's Institute, "Breaking the Bondage of Silence," will ask participants to grow beyond simply bringing to "voice" the silent issues that exist within the Lesbian community. Unitedly we will ask you to name cancer, battering, HIV/AIDS and Lesbian Motherhood. By doing so we will dismantle the bands of silence that have surrounded these issues and have successfully kept us isolated and alone. We will reclaim the "power" and embrace all that we are...the beautiful, the painful, the difficult and the challenging. With this power we will face these issues with purpose and resolve.

Friday, February 18, 1994

8 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

Opening Plenary

Evelyn C. White, *Keynote Speaker*

PAT PARKER ROOM

9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Session I

AIDS and Safer Sex: A Lesbian Denial

Michelle Badger and Chyrell D. Bellamy, *Facilitators*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

Sistahs, it's time to come together and focus on how HIV/AIDS is impacting our Lesbian community. It is time to eliminate our ignorance and get informed with all we need to know to protect ourselves and survive. We will present to each of you the statistics on how this issue is effecting us and you will be given concrete solutions on how to reduce the spread of this disease. We will also share how safer sex can be...sultry, sensuous, steamy and hot!

Cancer: It Will Keep Us Silent and Separate No Longer

A. Renee Williams and Christine Adams Tripp, *Facilitators*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

The mere word "cancer" can propel Lesbian sisters 100 yards away from one another with the implication that the condition is communicable. Moreover, a distressing and increasing number of African American Lesbian Sisters continue to struggle with the disease in silence. This workshop is for Lesbians currently struggling with cancer as well as for those who have survived. It is a time and place to come together and break barriers of isolation. Survivors bring energy, empowering us to continue. The workshops also welcomes friends and loved ones, who may gain insight into how to continue support during a difficult time. Facilitated by women currently struggling with cancer.

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Session II

The Misuse of Power in Intimate Lesbian Relationships

Evelyn C. White and A. Renee Williams, *Facilitators*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

This workshop will focus on one's personal power and how it is used and misused in intimate relationships. We will define "power" and all forms of abuse...physical, mental, emotional and verbal. We will address "womyn's anger"—what it is and how we express it within our intimate relationships. Lastly, we will look at what happens in our relationships when labeling is used as a weapon of silence.

Struggle of African American Lesbian Mothers...A Dialogue

Rev. Jacquelyn Holland, *Facilitator*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

In this workshop we will be addressing such questions as..."When is the right time to come out to my child?," "How to balance time with my children, lover, and myself?" We will dialogue around the problems and challenges that are faced when we deal with estranged co-parents.

12:35 p.m.-1:50 p.m.

Co-Gender Luncheon

Robert Wasson, *Keynote Speaker*

GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Session III

Co-Gender Session, Part One: Womyn's Issues

Vengerflutta Smith, *Facilitator*

PAT PARKER ROOM

3:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m.

Co-Gender Caucus, Part Two: Models of Coalition and Support

Vengerflutta Smith and George Bellinger, Jr., *Facilitators*

GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

"There are so many people who are determined not to do wrong, but equally determined not to do right." As Black Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transpersons, we have numerous challenges in our day to day existence. We are all constant survivors of our socialization processes, where we were inflicted with STDs (socially transmitted diseases) such as ageism, sizeism, racism, sexism and classism. The multiple effects of our culturalization and these STDs has had an impact on how we act and react to each other. We often grow tired of hearing about "those issues" and this makes our recovery or healing, from the effects of these STDs nearly impossible. The challenge facing many members of co-gender organizations is not deciding what is right; it is doing what is right. Are we really prepared to handle all of the implications of being fully committed to our co-gender organizations? Using a variety of exercises and communication techniques, the facilitators will truly challenge us to expose our hidden agendas and celebrate each other beyond the 28 days.

THE BLACK GAY and LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM's
MEN'S CAUCUS

presents

THE FOURTH ANNUAL

BROTHER TO BROTHER:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLACK GAY MEN'S RETREAT

Friday, September 23 - Sunday, September 25, 1994

Save the Date !!!

for more information contact:
Reginald Chapple at 213/964-7820

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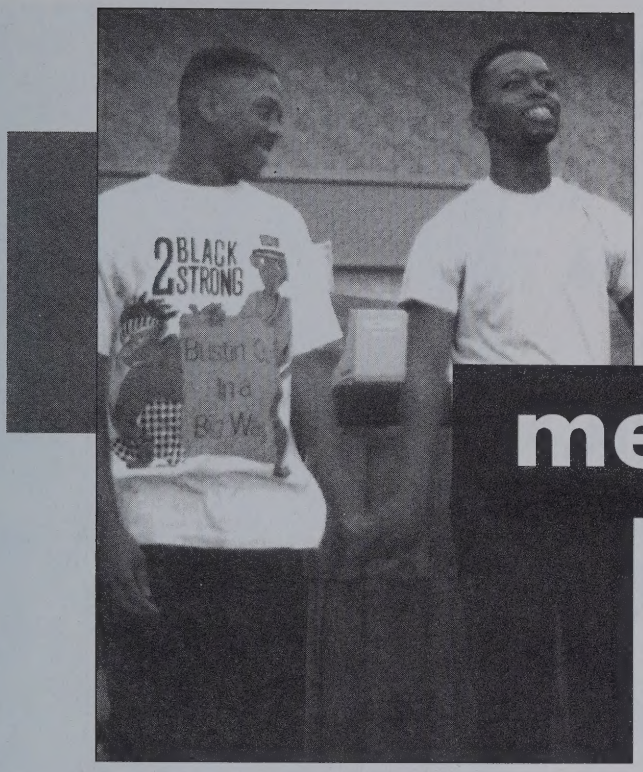

men's *institute*

This year marks the second year that the Men's Institute has been a part of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference. The institute grew out of an ongoing call for a time that Black Gay men could come together and explore, debate and better understand issues specifically relevant to the Black Gay community. The broad goal of the workshop is to re-ground Black Gay men in a vision and practice of community. We do this by identifying the diversity within the Black Gay community: how we differ across ethnicity, region, age, sexual practices, class, and how this richness can also serve as barriers to building community.

Friday February 18, 1993

8 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfsast

8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

Opening Plenary

Raymond Dumas, *Welcome*
Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones, *Keynote Speaker*
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

9:15 a.m.-10 a.m.

Black Gay Men: Celebrating All of Who We Are, Part One

Ron Barrett and Colin Robinson, *Facilitators*
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Small Group Discussions

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

The men in each group will be encouraged to share their experiences, listen to each other and question who they are. We are prepared to raise specific questions surrounding existing issues in exploring ourselves. Each of the small groups will be asked to share the issues discussed and utilize that information to create a plan for community building and healing.

Group A
What it means to be a man
How we relate to our gender
How we were raised as men

Group B
Explore issues of age and generation
How we learn from older men
How we are perceived by youth of all sexual identities
How education and privilege interfere

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Black Gay Men: Celebrating All of Who We Are, Part Two

Ron Barrett and Colin Robinson, *Facilitators*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

12:35 p.m.-1:50 p.m.

Co-Gender Luncheon

Robert Wasson, *Keynote Speaker*

GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Co-Gender Session, Part One: Men's Issues

George Bellinger, Jr., *Facilitator*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

3:45 p.m.- 5:45 p.m.

Co-Gender Caucus, Part Two: Models of Coalition and Support

Vengerflutta Smith and George Bellinger, Jr., *Facilitators*

GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

"There are so many people who are determined not to do wrong, but equally determined not to do right." As Black Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transpersons, we have numerous challenges in our day to day existence. We are all constant survivors of our socialization processes, where we were inflicted with STDs (socially transmitted diseases) such as ageism, sizeism, racism, sexism and classism. The multiple effects of our culturalization and these STDs has had an impact on how we act and react to each other. We often grow tired of hearing about "those issues" and this makes our recovery or healing, from the effects of these STDs nearly impossible. The challenge facing many members of co-gender organizations is not deciding what is right; it is doing what is right. Are we really prepared to handle all of the implications of being fully committed to our co-gender organizations? Using a variety of exercises and communication techniques, the facilitators will truly challenge us to expose our hidden agendas and celebrate each other beyond the 28 days.

THE BLACK GAY and LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM's
CO-GENDER CAUCUS

presents

THE FIRST ANNUAL

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LESBIAN & GAY CO-GENDER RETREAT

COMING SOON!!!

Contact Vallerie Wagner or Reginald Chapple at 213/964-7820

Thank You
for being a Golden Sponsor

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

opening *ceremony*

"Silent No More: May Our Voices Ring Beyond 28 Days"

Produced by the Beyond 28 Days Cultural Committee

Friday, February 18, 1993
7:30 p.m.
George Rodney Carter Room

WELCOME
Russell Thornhill
Candice Boyce

"3 CARETAKERS"
Performed by ETHOS...a Dance Theater Company

TRADITIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLK SONGS
Gary Paul Wright and Willie C. Barnes

"OLE BECKY"
Written by Ira Jeffries
Performed by Jackie Green

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves

CLOSING REMARKS
Vallerie D. Wagner
Paul Darling

Thank You
for being a Golden Sponsor

NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

cultural *event*

"From African Ancestral Roots...to African Fruits"
A Cultural Feast for the Mind, Body and Soul

(In Appreciation of Assotto Saint)

Sponsored by the Beyond 28 Days Cultural Committee

Friday, February 18, 1994
9:30 p.m.-12 a.m.
Exhibition Center

FEATURED ARTISTS
Ubaka Hill and the Drumsong Orchestra
Rainbow Repertory Theater
Other Countries
Zenobia
Brother Tongues
ETHOS..a Dance Theater Company
Choreografitti

Thank You
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AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

awards *banquet*

WELCOME AND GREETINGS
Gergory J. May

INVOCATION
Rev. Jacquelyn D. Holland

DINNER

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS
Stephen Semien - James Baldwin Black Quill Award
Michelle T. Clinton - Audre Lorde Black Quill Award
Reggie Williams - Frederick Garnett Memorial AIDS Award
Willa Taylor - Mabel Hampton Award
Sabrina Sojourner - Bayard Rustin Award
Unity Fellowship New York - Harriett Tubman Award

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Vallerie D. Wagner
Gregory J. May

CLOSING
Vallerie D. Wagner

DANCING

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NATIONAL MINORITY AIDS COUNCIL

after *hours*

"A Taste of Contemporary Culture"

Sponsored by the Beyond 28 Days Cultural Committee
Hosted by Miche Braden, Associate Producer

Saturday, February 19, 1994
2 shows
11:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
1 a.m.-2 a.m.
Womyn-to-Womyn Man-to-Man Room

If you think the health care system is working, ask someone whose immune system isn't.

The airwaves and headlines are full of so-called experts debating health care reform—lawyers, economists, insurance executives, hospitals.

Confusing? Sure. That's why you should consult the real experts on health care in America: people living with HIV and AIDS. Few know the current system's failings more intimately. Few have given more thought to how the system must be changed.

And the fact is, a health plan designed to meet the needs of those with the most complex medical problems will meet the needs of everyone. Here are the key features you should look for:

+ Universal Coverage For All.

Excluding people will cost lives.

+ Affordability.

Everyone, regardless of income, should be able to afford to pay their insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

+ Required Employer Participation.

Only if *all* employers pay their fair share will no one bear an undue burden.

+ Comprehensive Health Benefits.

Everyone, regardless of income or HIV status, is entitled to a full package of benefits.

+ Vital AIDS Relief And Other Programs Safeguarded.

Ryan White AIDS relief, substance abuse and mental health grants, family planning, TB prevention, other public health programs, and "safety net" programs must not be gutted to pay for health care reform.

+ Coverage Of AIDS-Specific Needs.

Prescription drugs, home health care, substance abuse, mental health grants, hospice care and lab costs are crucial to people with HIV and AIDS.

+ Limits On Premium Increases.

Keeping premiums low will keep your plan affordable and check skyrocketing health care costs.

+ Single-Payer Options For Individual States.

No state should be prevented from reforming the health care system more thoroughly than the federal government does.

All of these features are crucial to people living with HIV and AIDS. But they are just as important for everyone else.

Tell your Congressional Representative in Washington that you will settle for nothing less. Write a letter or mail the coupon below.

GMHC

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc., is the largest AIDS organization in the U.S., providing services, education and advocacy for men, women and children with AIDS.

Gay Men's Health Crisis
Public Policy Department
129 West 20th, New York, NY 10011

[ ] Deliver the message below directly to my Congressional representative:

Rep. _____:

As you carefully consider the National Health Security Act, keep in mind that a plan that protects people with AIDS protects all Americans; any plan that fails people with AIDS fails every man, woman and child with a serious illness. AIDS is the test for health care reform.

_____
NAME

_____
ADDRESS

_____

This ad was paid for with private contributions. Prepared by Public Media Center.

If health care reform works for people with AIDS, it will work for everyone.

cultural *track*

Black Lesbian and Gay artists—writers, actors, artists, dancers, teachers and more—are at the forefront of our creative world. The Cultural Track provides an opportunity for learning how to more than further one's individual skill. The cultural workers will be responsible for much of the ground work that connects Black Lesbians and Gays with the rest of the Black and Lesbian and Gay communities in the future. In addition, as we take control of our representation and depictions in American culture, and indeed for much of the African American experience we must be up to the task. To us falls the task of recording the Dispora as well as our part in it.

Saturday, February 19, 1994

10:45 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.

Opening Plenary

Michelle T. Clinton, *Keynote Speaker*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Source of Joy, Source of Power: Celebrating Black Lesbian and Gay Writers

Michelle T. Clinton, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

We want to be strong in our efforts to survive and our efforts to change the homophobic world around us. We need to understand reading and writing as exciting tools for joy, for power, for survival. This workshop pays tribute to the great Black Lesbian and Gay writers of our time, including Audre Lorde, James Baldwin and Cheryl Clarke. Both Michelle T. Clinton and G. Colette Jackson will read short excerpts from their work. The workshop will conclude with an open forum for any poet who would like to share one short poem or offer comments. We want to celebrate the silences broken by our great writers, and will encourage young writers in a ritual of celebration.

1 p.m.- 2 p.m.

Lunch

2 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Fighting the Right: Moving Towards Spiritual Empowerment

G. Colette Jackson, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

This performance workshop will arm Lesbian, Gays and Bisexuals with new biblical knowledge to fight right wing fundamentalists. Through role play and new Biblical information, G. Colette Jackson will offer tools for confronting homophobic bashers, (not just the ones on the street but the ones in our heads). We recognize that our health and empowerment comes not only from what we do physically but also how we evolve culturally. The many levels (political, communal, personal) that make up our cultures, both Lesbian and Gay, and African American, will be explored. We will culminate in a community ritual to bring us closer to the root of our collective cultural powers.

3:45 p.m.- 5:15 p.m.
Workshop 3: TBA
Facilitator: TBA

grassroots *organizing track*

"Hand in hand, we brew and forge a revolution"
—"This Bridge Called My Back: Writing by Radical Women of Color" edited by Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldua.

Organizing for social change can take place on a variety of levels. The Grassroots Organizing Track explores the fndamentals of community organizaing from a ground-level Black Lesbian and Gay perspective. Among the issues addressed in this series of workshops are oppression, consensus, power, alliances and economic development.

This workshop series is lovingly dedicated to the spirit and reality of sister Audre Lorde, Gambia Adisa (Warrior—She who makes her meaning known).

Saturday, February 19, 1994

10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Opening Plenary: Fighting to Win

Barbara Smith and Rod McCoy, *Speakers*

PAT PARKER ROOM

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Creating a Common Framework

Deborah Williams-Muhammed, Ivy Young, Cathy Cohen and Colin Robinson, *Facilitators*

PAT PARKER ROOM

Topics will include defining a "good organizer," defining "activism" and "organizing," community building for political empowerment, "going back to our roots" doing work within the community, multi-prong strategizing against oppression, differences between a movement with a radical strategy and reform work.

1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Lunch: Helping Each Other Help Ourselves

Dr. Marjorie J. Hill, *Facilitator*

PAT PARKER ROOM

Discussion where a roundtable of organizers from all over the country can get feedback from each other on their current involvement. The goal of the session is for the group to provide constructive suggestions for problem-solving from the gathered pool of national experience.

2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Making Change Happen: Successful Organizing, Part One

Imani Woods, Juan Mendez, Nadine Smith and John Wright, *Facilitators*

PAT PARKER ROOM

Presentations of four examples of grassroots organizing on a local scale that have national scope and deal with the intersections of oppression (e.g., family structure, immigration). Success is defined as motion forward and not as complete issue resolution.

3:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

Doing the Work: Successful Organizing, Part Two

Elias Farajaje-Jones, Mandy Carter, Ron Wheeler and Doug Blanc, *Facilitators*

PAT PARKER ROOM

The general group breaks out into smaller groups for one hour to develop organizing strategies for specific issues of major concern to our community. Each small group may draw on ideas and tactics discussed in Sessions I and II. For the remaining half hour, each group shares with the general group their strategies. Issue focuses may include: domestic violence, right wing organizing of Black homophobia or working within white Lesbian and Gay organizing.

Sunday, February 20, 1994

10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Issue Intensive: Going Home (Working within Black Cultural Communities)

Crystal Weston Mattie Richardson and Donald Suggs, *Facilitators*

PAT PARKER ROOM

We will discuss the many challenges we face within the various cultural communities that compose the Afrikan Diaspora in working to eradicate oppression. Discussion will center around the impact that Black heterosexism/homophobia has on us, the barriers it presents to successfully organizing across issues, and ways in which we can reclaim our place in our communities as out Black Lesbians and Gay men.

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Lunch

1 p.m.-2:30 p.m

Organizing Intensive: Coalition Building: Creating Ties That Bind, Working Across Our Differences

Tania Abdulahad, Keith Kyler, Malkia Cyril and Charlene Waldron, *Facilitators*

PAT PARKER ROOM

A look at long-term coalition building as a necessary tool for liberation. Each panelist will present examples of successful and unsuccessful attempts at building coalition. The tensions and gains surrounding the creation and status of these attempts will be discussed. Issues of respect, trust, self-preservation and building successful long-term alliances will also be discussed.

2:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

Creating the Visions

N'Tanya and Troy Fermandez, *Facilitators*

PAT PARKER ROOM

Moving from dialogue to action: Where do we go from here? Defining a radical, Black Lesbian and Gay political and economic movement. Long-term objectives for social change. Community economic development. New and old definitions for political power. Creating organizing structures. Goal: Commitment to a next step, e.g., national network, local work, national work, organizations, doing a visible action, etc.

Closing Plenary

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Bar, Street and Group Outreach
Model Needle Exchange Program
Outreach to Transgender Community
Tobacco Education Program
Youth Employment and Training
Promotion of HIV Testing and Early Intervention
Outreach to Heterosexual, Bisexual and Gay Men of Color
"Say Sister" Outreach to Women of Color
HIV Outreach to Gang Members in South Central Los Angeles

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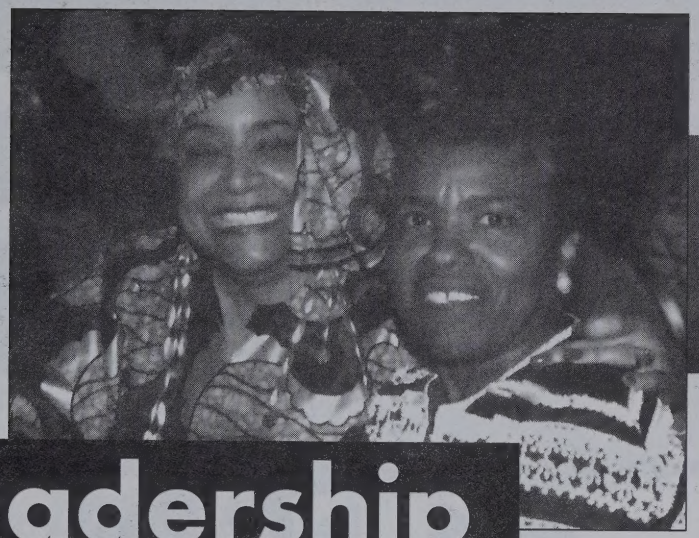


leadership *development track*

The Leadership Development workshops will focus on some of the deeper issues involved in being leaders through various spheres of influence. Discussion issues will include leading beyond our comfort zones, working in a multi-cultural environment and the brass tacks of leading an organization. The workshops are designed for participant input, problem solving and networking.

Saturday February 19, 1994

10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Opening Plenary

Sabrina Sojourner and Jamie Washington, *Welcome*
Jamie Washington, *Keynote Speaker*
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Leadership Development I

Jamie Washington, *Facilitator*
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM
An examination of the characteristics, skills, and styles of leadership, including an exploration of power and how it is used.

1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Lunch

2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Leadership Development II

Sabrina Sojourner, *Facilitator*
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM
A frank discussion about the ism's, political philosophy and spirituality and their relationship to leadership.

3:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

Leadership Development III

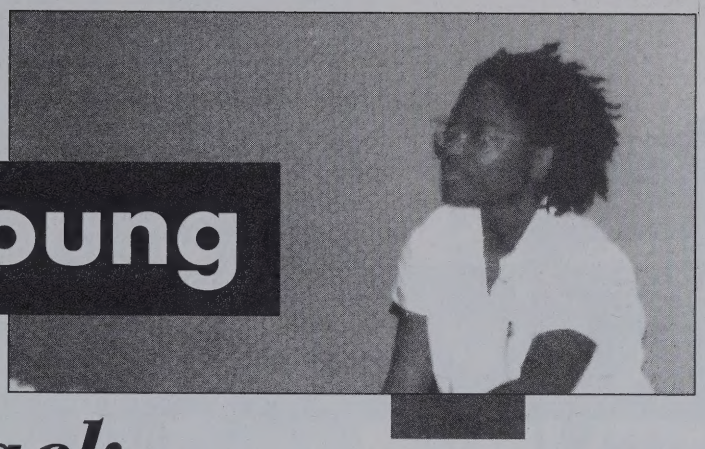
Dr. Marjorie Hill and H. Alexander Robinson, *Facilitators*
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM
The brass tacks of leading an organization, coalition and alliance building.

Congratulations on your 7th Annual National Black Gay & Lesbian Conference and Institutes

We look forward to seeing you at our 6th Annual Beach Party

Saturday, July 2, 1994
Malibu, California

For more information on Airlines, Hotel Accommodations and Special Beach Packages, please call the ATB Hotline at 213-969-1619 or write to us at Box 480439, Los Angeles, CA 90048



young *adult track*

The Young Adult Track addresses the specific issues particular to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual young adults between the ages of 18 and 25. We recognize the need for discussion, networking and action for such adults. Issues that will be addressed include, but are not limited to, family, coming out, nationalism, first relationships and campus issues.

Saturday February 19, 1994

10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Opening Plenary

Eden Ajrian-Omari, *Keynote Speaker*

FRANK HALL ROOM

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Education, Advocacy and Empowerment

Jafari Allen and Jill Humphries, *Facilitators*

FRANK HALL ROOM

This workshop is designed to be an interactive experience of meeting our object identities in order to effect goals of education, advocacy and empowerment for our communities. The workshop is to provide participants with both sound intellectual/theoretical grounding and practical "do-oriented" tools and inspiration to continue working toward personal and societal transformation.

1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Lunch

2 p.m-3:30 p.m.

Improving National Networking

Eden Ajrian-Omari, *Facilitator*

FRANK HALL ROOM

National Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students of Color: Basic campus organizing, empowerment through speech/language and history. Current LGB Euro-American political rhetoric, inclusion/exclusion and implementation of mentorship program. Identification of strengths/weaknesses and improving national networking and fundraising skills.

3:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

Co-Gender Networking

Marion Pitts and Edmond James Mouton Jr., *Facilitators*

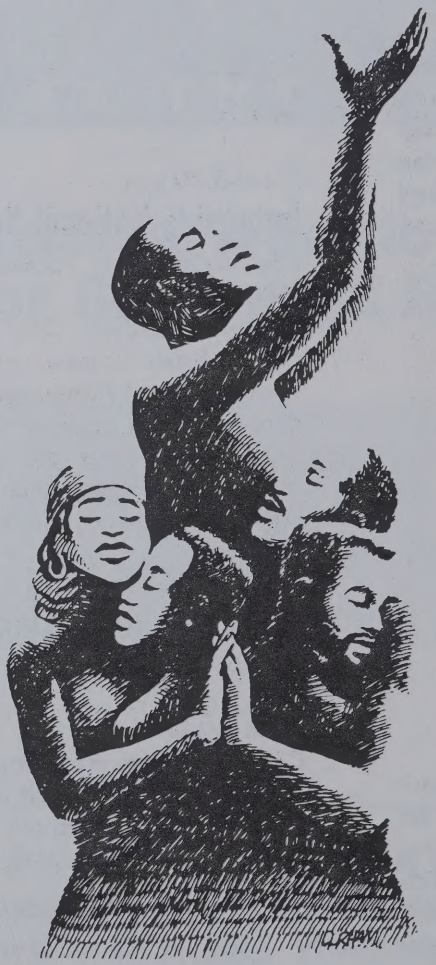
FRANK HALL ROOM

Co-gender open discussion and networking for participants in the Young Adult Track. Issues to be discussed include family, coming out, nationalism, campus issues, relationships, etc.

Mark E Durham

illustration and design

clients include: Fox television, Warner Bros. records, MCA records



call or fax (213) 662-4918 4431 Ambrose ave. LA. Ca. 90027

spirituality *track*

"In today's highly interdependent world, individuals and nations can no longer resolve their dilemmas by themselves. We actually need one another."

The Dalai Lama

All wise teachers are in fact, spokespersons of the truth, appearing in countless skillful, compassionate guises in order to guide us through their teaching, back to our true nature. At first, then, more important than finding the teacher is finding and following the truth of the teaching. Through this connection with the truth an awareness surfaces...a discovery of a living connection between yourself and creation.

Rely on the message of the teacher, not the personality;
Rely on the meaning, not just the words;
Rely on the real meaning, not just the provisional one;
Rely on your wisdom mind, not on your ordinary, judgmental mind.

True spirituality also is an awareness that we are interdependent with everything and everyone, even our smallest, least significant thought, word and action has real consequences throughout the universe.

Throw a pebble into a pond. It sends a shiver across the surface of the water. Ripples merge into one another and create new ones. Everything is inextricably interrelated.

We may wish to consider how to develop a sense of universal responsibility...how do we protect and nurture one another, and our global family? How do we support our community's weakest members, preserve and protect the environment in which we all live?

This year, the Spirituality Track will collectively explore these questions by turning our attention to practices and belief systems that reflect the diversity of our African American Lesbian and Gay experience. Each workshop will ask participants to reflect, offer truths, seek answers, begin new journeys and celebrate spiritual uniqueness. We welcome you in peace.

Sunday, February 21, 1994

10 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Opening Plenary: African American Spirituality: A Tension of Joy

Rev. Sandra L. Robinson, *Keynote Speaker*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

De-Mystifying Spirituality: Practical Spiritual Awareness Utilizing Sex, Sounds, Aroma, Color and Symbols

Suhir Blackeagle, *Facilitator*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

Utilizing visual aids, breathing techniques, eastern and western images and philosophies, an exciting and sensory engaging exploration into the spirituality of becoming aware of one's personhood and uniqueness.

12 p.m.-12:45 p.m.

Lunch

1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Look Within: You Are the Buddha

Louis Dixon, *Facilitator*

IDEA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

A deeply personal journey, rich in tradition that predates Christianity; illustrated through practical techniques and a discussion of the principles, practice, and discipline of Zen Buddhism with instruction on basic meditation.

2:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

Womyn's Writings As Sacred Text

Rev. Sandra L. Robinson, *Facilitator*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

This workshop will feature an exchange of ideas from a womynist perspective. A new and exciting way of viewing our existence by embracing our lives and literary achievements as sacred and identifying what our responsibilities are in that awakening. By defining the five particularities of our existence; family, class, sex, gender and spirituality, we identify how we do the impossible: "live with our lives/making a way out of no way/making soup out of bones" and change the world while surviving the struggle with joy.

4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Ecumenical Service

EXHIBITION HALL

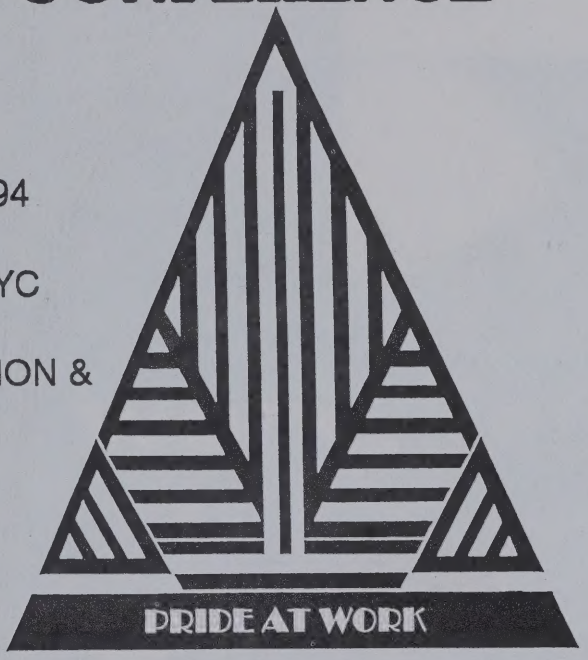
LESBIAN AND GAY LABOR CONFERENCE

AT
STONEWALL 25

FRIDAY JUNE 24, 1994
D C 37, AFSCME
125 BARCLAY ST., NYC
(212) 815-7575

10AM-4PM, RECEPTION &
DANCE TO FOLLOW

MAKE YOUR UNION
WORK FOR YOU



Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund
salutes
The Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum
&
welcomes its
7th Annual Conference
participants to the metro New York area

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10 Years of Legal and Policy Work for those with HIV & AIDS

Evans, et al. v. Colorado ❖ Ad Hoc Committee of Proud Black Lesbians and Gays v. Defender Charities ❖ Steffan v. Aspin ❖ Behrens, et al. v. Cracker Barrel ❖ Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride v. City of Long Beach ❖ ACTUP/ Portland v. Bagley ❖ Brienza v. United Press International ❖ Lesbian and Gay Teachers Association v. New York City Board of Education ❖ Rovira v. AT&T ❖ Henry Phipps Plaza West v. Gomez ❖ Baehr v. Lewin ❖ Cammermeyer v. U.S.

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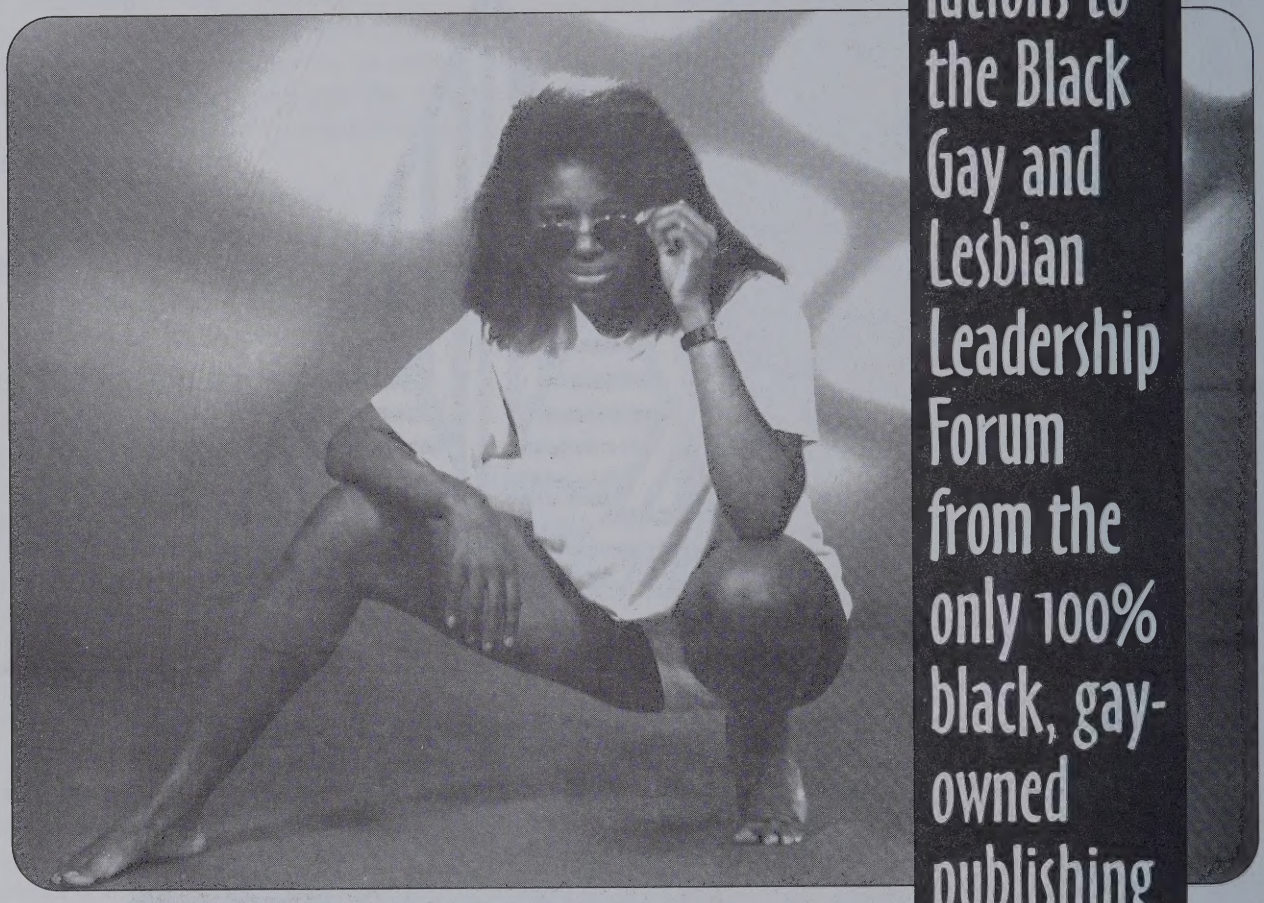

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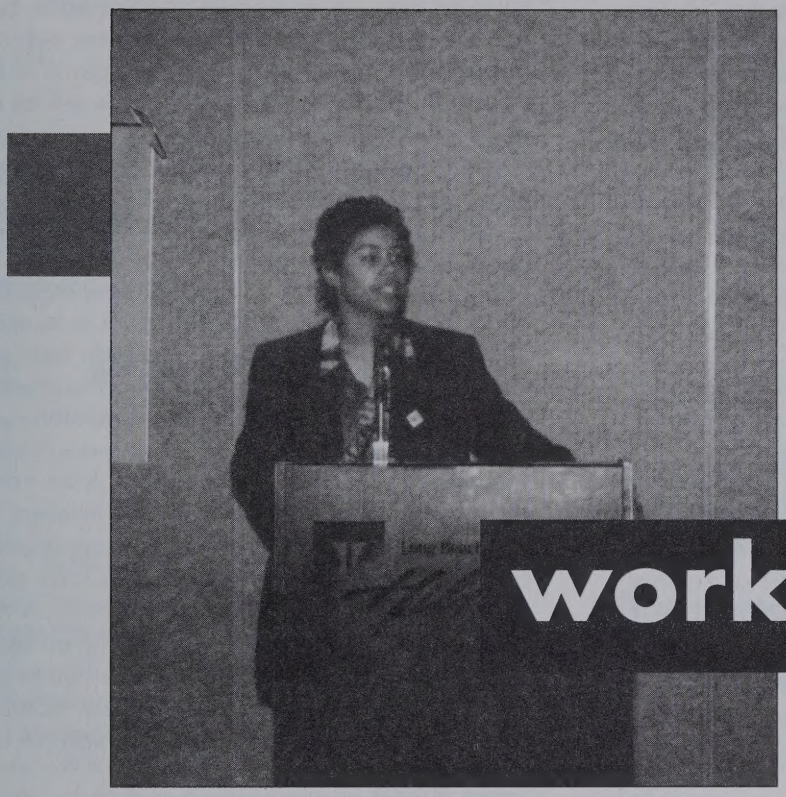

workshops

Saturday, February 19, 1994

Leadership Development Track
Full Day
BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

Cultural Track
Full Day
CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

Keys to Symbols

A	Administration
CT	Clinical Trials
CS	Client Services
EI	Early Intervention
EP	Education and Prevention
MH	Mental Health
PP	Public Policy
SA	Substance Abuse
T	Treatment
Y	Youth
W	Women

Young Adult Track
Full Day
FRANK HALL ROOM

Grassroots Organizing Track
Full Day
PAT PARKER ROOM

8:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Opening Plenary
Mario Cooper, *Keynote Speaker*
GEORGE RODNEY CARTER ROOM

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Session I

F

Transgenders in the Black Community and Who We Are
Sheri Webb, *Facilitator*
AUDRE LORDE ROOM
This workshop deals primarily with the personal experiences of growing up in the African American community, not as "Gay" or "straight," but as a Transgender. We will discuss my treatment by those who were also

different, and my years on the streets as a sex worker. Financial, psychosocial and other "pre-op" perspectives will be shared as well as, the surgery itself and living with it. Issues of career, self-esteem and treatment of Transgenders by Lesbians and Gay men will also be explored.

[X]

Fight the Right

Scot Nakagawa, *Facilitator*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

The workshop will explore the historical origins and contemporary dimensions and dynamics of the international right wing movement. In this context, we will examine right wing groupings such as the Ku Klux Klan, Christian Patriots, the religious right and the new right. A special focus will be placed on the relationship of right wing movements to economic and social change, the state and institutional inequality.

[H]

Celebrating the Life in Spite of Physical Challenges

James Stokes, *Facilitator*

ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

This workshop discusses how the physically challenged overcome their challenges, start living and celebrating Lesbian and Gay life.

[F]

Gay and Lesbian Domestic Violence

Charlene M. Waldron, *Facilitator*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

This is a workshop to discuss and identify domestic violence and the special concerns we have as Lesbian and Gay people of color. Attendees are encouraged to bring their concerns and issues for support and suggestions from each other.

12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

Lunch Caucuses

2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Session II

[F] [GR]

Working in the Domestic Violence Movement

Charlene M. Waldron, *Facilitator*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM [WOMEN ONLY]

Often the Domestic Violence Movement is seen as a movement of and for white women. This workshop will focus on how we as people of color have our needs and concerns met so that we become a part of the solution. We also need to insure our place at the table when that solution is developed. There will be a discussion on how to deal with racism and homophobia in a movement that assumes that it has already solved these issues. We will end by talking about how do we support ourselves and each other in a movement that tries to deny our existence.

[GR]

The Internet: Getting Connected

Ron Buckmire and Chuck Tarver, *Facilitators*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

The purpose of this workshop is to train conference participants in the workings of the Internet (web of computers used for research and communication). Organizations such as Digital Queers have developed ways to use the Internet to further Lesbian and Gay activism. Used effectively your personal computer is an effective tool of activism. It can allow you to communicate with many people simultaneously, obtain the latest statistics to further your cause, or transmit an important document.

[RS]

Sexism in Co-Gender Organizations

Jonathan Poullard and Renee Williams, *Facilitators*

ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

This program will focus on the impact of sexism and racism among professionals of color who are Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, within the context of the Lesbian and Gay community and our professional work settings. Strategies for empowerment and functioning with or without the support of our Lesbian and Gay constituent groups will be discussed.

[F]

Positive Parenting

Julie Jenkins and Lynnette Cain, A.C.S.W., *Facilitators*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

Is it difficult for you to "come out" to your child(ren)? How about their teacher or Sunday School teacher? How about their physician? What does your family say about you as a Lesbian or Gay parent Are they supportive? How can you best present yourself as a positive parent in custody battles? This workshop will address a number of issues relating to parenting as Lesbian and Gay persons: societal perception, the schools, churches, attitudes of our families of origin, discipline, consistent and structured parenting styles and techniques. (If requested we can also address adoption issues as our children are adopted.)

3:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

Session III

[H]

The Unforgettable Touch: Black Gay Men and Sexual Abuse

Lawrence Dewyatt Abrams, *Facilitator*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM [MEN ONLY]

The purpose of this session is to open a dialogue with Black Gay men about the role of sexual abuse in our lives and the lives of the men that we love. In addition, we will focus on the road to recovery and our ability to transcend the impression of the unforgettable touch.

[E]

Financial Planning

Vincent Henri Brown, C.P.A., *Facilitator*

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

This workshop will explore: general financial tips (e.g., personal budgets, purchase of a home, bank relation, investment strategies and taxation consideration). In addition, we will look at issues confronted by Lesbians and Gay men of African descent such as federal regulations that do and do not protect us, financial planning for long-term relationships, children and taxation.

[CU]

Creativity Manifested: A Workshop for Poets/Writers Dedicated to the Memory of Rory Buchanan

Gideon Ferebee, *Facilitator*

ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

This workshop is an opportunity for poets, journalists and novelists to network with other writers on a creative level. It is open to all writers who love their craft. Participants will write short poems and prose pieces based on a vocabulary determined by the group. During the session, be prepared to produce four or five short works. Each person should have an opportunity to read at least one of his or her short poems, essays or short story intros. Bring a pen and pad and plan to have a fun time.

[GR]

Moving Beyond Differences Again: Resolving Organizational Conflict

Dr. Marjorie J. Hill, *Facilitator*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

The possibility for conflict and confrontation looms large in our lives, particularly for those of us who promote progressive social change and encourage individual growth and empowerment. Whether it's tension between ex-lovers, political differences, contrasting styles, values or visions, organizations suffer when effective conflict resolution is not achieved. This workshop will focus on identifying the underlying sources of dissension and various strategies for moving ahead. We will explore the role of anger, mistrust, power dynamics and poor communication on our ability to effectively work, love and organize together. Special attention will be given to the role of internalized racism, sexism and homophobia as they impact organizing efforts.

Sunday, February 20, 1994

Grassroots Organizing Track

Full Day

PAT PARKER ROOM

Spirituality Track

Full Day

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT ROOM

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Session I

[E]

Economic Empowerment: Building Your American Dream, Part One

LaQuetta M. Shamblee, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

Starting with a look at the current economic conditions within the African American Lesbian and Gay community, this workshop addresses a number of the barriers preventing the creation and enjoyment of your "American Dream." This is followed by the presentation of some innovative, as well as time-proven, methods for personal financial planning, wealth building and pursuing business opportunities.

[F] [C]

Organizing Kwanzaa Celebrations in Your Community

Kofi Adoma, *Facilitator*

FRANK HALL ROOM

More and more people of African descent are celebrating Kwanzaa every year. Kwanza, a Swahili word for "first fruits," is a seven-day African American holi-

day based on seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. This fun-filled participatory workshop will teach the fundamentals of how to conduct and host Kwanzaa and pre-Kwanzaa programs and parties. The Nguzo Saba Song and Kwanzaa games are included.

[H]

Holistic Approaches to Health Maintenance for People With HIV/AIDS, Part One

Dr. Ron Simmons and Rev. Rainey Cheeks, *Facilitators*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

This workshop will present an overview of a traditional natural, holistic approach–involving the body, mind and spirit–for the treatment of HIV and AIDS. In addition to defining the concept of holistic health, we will present information on holistic health maintenance through nutrition, internal cleansing, stress management, exercise, meditation and creative visualization.

[H]

Caregiving in a Cultural Context for African Americans with AIDS

Shahara Lauren E. Godfrey, M.A., *Facilitator*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM

This is a workshop that will re-examine concepts of co-dependency, addiction and nuturance. Particular attention will be given to barriers that might interfere with providing quality care such as the "-isms" and managing stigma. In addition, methods of handling these issues will be provided.

[RS] [H]

Interracial Relations and Other Forms of Internalized Racism in Black Gay Males, Part One

Sacha Vington, M.D., *Facilitator*

ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM [PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT ONLY]

Internalized racism in black gay males is an insidious and pervasive disease. It has yet to receive adequate national discussion because Black Gay men have allowed the American Gay agenda to be composed by and for white Gay men. We shall draw on both clinical and non-clinical information to discuss seven manifestations of internalized racism: (1) Black/white Gay interracial relationships and its ramifications in the Black Gay leadership; (2) crisis in Black Gay leadership; (3) the bar culture; (4) "middle-classism"; (5) drug and alcohol abuse; (6) prostitution, and (7) non-safe sex practices.

[RS]

Black and White Men Together–Why??

Ric Irick, Keven Scott and Bernard Jones, *Facilitators*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM [MEN ONLY]

Viewing of *Black and White Men Together–Why??* a videotape that explores men's feelings about interracial dating and relationships in the Washington, D.C. Black Gay community. The tape features Black men as well as white who explain their desires for men who are not of their own race. Question and answer session investigates: Many Black men lament that while the numbers of "good" relationship-oriented men dwindles, the number of interracial couplings increases.

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Lunch Caucuses

1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Session II

[E]

Economic Empowerment: Building Your American Dream, Part Two

LaQuetta M. Shamblee, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM

Starting with a look at the current economic conditions within the African American Lesbian and Gay community, this workshop addresses a number of the barriers preventing the creation and enjoyment of your "American Dream." This is followed by the presentation of some innovative, as well as time-proven, methods for personal financial planning, wealth building and pursuing business opportunities.

[F] [E]

Building an East Coast Residential and Retreat Community for Women and Children

Vanessa Marshall, *Facilitator*

FRANK HALL ROOM

This workshop will focus on building an East Coast residential and retreat community for Lesbian, Bisexual and heterosexual sisters and our children to visit or live. We are calling on East Coast Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men who are interested in, or have ideas about developing a safe community for sisters and children, elder sisters, healing, learning about ethnic, cultural and spiritual differences. This environment would need ways to support itself economically, therefore, developing ways to have that happen (i.e., ongoing conferences, social and cultural events) will be explored. Come out and represent your state.

[H]

Holistic Approaches to Health Maintenance for People With HIV/AIDS, Part Two

Dr. Ron Simmons and Rev. Rainey Cheeks, *Facilitators*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

This workshop will present an overview of a traditional natural, holistic approach–involving the body, mind and spirit–for the treatment of HIV and AIDS. In addition to defining the concept of holistic health, we will present information on holistic health maintenance through nutrition, internal cleansing, stress management, exercise, meditation and creative visualization.

[ME]

Brother to Brother, Part One

Charles B. Tarver, IV, *Facilitator*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM [MEN ONLY]

More and more, healthy, meaningful and nonsexual relationships are needed among Gay men of color. This workshop will examine the difficulties of relationships and provide techniques for finding and establishing better relationships with other men of color.

[RS] [H]

Interracial Relations and Other Forms of Internalized Racism in Black Gay Males, Part Two

Sacha Vington, M.D., *Facilitator*

ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM [PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT ONLY]

Internalized racism in Black Gay males is an insidious and pervasive disease. It has yet to receive adequate national discussion because Black Gay men have allowed the American Gay agenda to be composed by and for white Gay men. We shall draw on both clinical and non-clinical information to discuss seven manifestations of internalized racism: (1) Black/white Gay interracial relationships and its ramifications in the Black Gay leadership; (2) crisis in Black Gay leadership; (3) the bar culture; (4) "middle-classism"; (5) drug and alcohol abuse; (6) prostitution, and (7) non-safe sex practices.

[H]

Diversity Among Us: Black Gay Male Strategies for Developing and Maintaining Positive Self Concepts in Hostile Environments

Dr. Larry Icard, *Facilitator*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM [MEN ONLY]

This workshop examines differences among Black Gay men with special attention given to locale, age and religion. We will explore commonalities and differences in relation to support, tensions and strains experienced from our families, communities, and other social environments relative to stages of sexual identity formation, developing intimate relations with men, and forming positive social supports.

2:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

Session III

[ME]

Brother to Brother, Part Two

Charles B. Tarver IV, *Facilitator*

BAYARD RUSTIN ROOM [MEN ONLY]

Part Two represents a continuation of the challenge to the ongoing search for better relationships with each other, man to man, brother to brother.

[F]

Black Gay Male Relationships: Getting Started, Making Them Last, Ending When They Should

Dr. Jamie Washington, *Facilitator*

CRAIG HARRIS ROOM [MEN ONLY]

"There are no good men out there." "What do you mean you don't want me to call you at work?" "You think that some day you'll get married, to a woman?" "I'm a man, just like you are, I don't care how I look or dress and if I'm givin' it up, then so are you!" "Racism is more important that homophobia, no one has to know I'm Gay." Do these statements sound familiar? If they do join us in our workshop on Black Gay male relationships. Couples and singles are welcome.

[F]

Let's Work It Out Together

Vera Martin, Facilitator

FRANK HALL ROOM

Aging and Ageism is the issue. As we make our journey through life we must deal with many stages. Let's take a visionary trip together. All ages and genders welcome.

[H]

Untilled Soil: HIV/AIDS and the African American Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgenderal Youth

Lawrence Dewyatt Abrams, *Facilitator*

AUDRE LORDE ROOM

This workshop is designed to provide a forum for our community to begin to discuss the complex issues in providing HIV/AIDS risk reduction education to African American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgenderal youth. In particular, the workshop facilitators will provide an overview of current research and speak about their professional experiences working with this population in New York City.

[RS]

Media Activism: Working the Press

Gregory Adams, Nadine Smith and Robert Bray, *Facilitators*

ANNA JULIA COOPER ROOM

Learn basic and advanced skills in effective, proactive press relations. Get good press (radio, telvision and print) for your organization and issue. Respond to inadequate or negative coverage. Shape public opinion. Topics include writing press releses snd advisories, staging press conferences, "spin" control, "soundbites," talking points, developing contacts in newsrooms, editorials and PSAs and much more. Workshop is highly interactive, with class exercise and on-camera television training! Special focus on penetrating "mainstream" (i.e., white) media, working with Black media, and giving voice and visibility to People of Color in the press.

[CU] [E]

Is There a Black Lesbian and Gay Culture?

Louise E. Gant and Gideon Ferebee, *Facilitators*

BESSIE SMITH ROOM

The word "culture" means different things to different people. To some, it's a shared system of ideas, values, beliefs and customs. As homosexual women and men of African descent, we come from all walks of life and struggle against oppression (such as classism, racism and sexism) on many different levels. If that's the case, then can there ever truly exist a Black Lesbian and Gay culture? Can we put aside our differences in an effort to come together as one community? What does this community look like? What are its ideals, values and beliefs?

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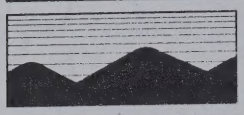

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closing *ceremony*

"May we never be silenced again–
Our pain and sorrows give way to joys and hopes Beyond 28 Days"

Produced by the Beyond 28 Days Cultural Committee

Sunday, February 20, 1994
6:30 p.m.
George Rodney Carter Room

SPECIAL THANKS
Gregory J. May
Vallerie D. Wagner

VOLUNTEER AWARDS
Ramona A. Bridges, Karen Worrell, Candice Boyce, Paul Darling

"THE HEALING"
Conceived and Performed by Suhir Blackeagle

SCENE FROM "STRAIGHT MEN CAN'T F****"
Performed by
William Breedlove, Jeff Haskins, Reginald T. Jackson, Wendy Leacock, James Love

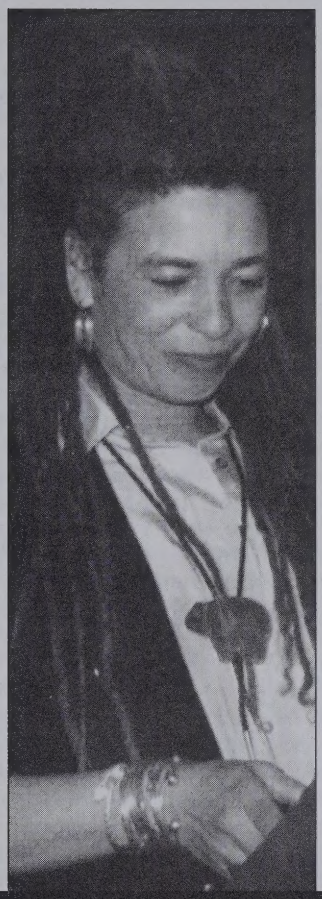
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Barbara Smith

CLOSING REMARKS
Vallerie D. Wagner
Russell Thornhill

TO THE FACULTY AND ARTISTS
OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL
NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN CONFERENCE
AND INSTITUTES

In your heart and mind, you hold experiences that are unique to the existence of Black Lesbians and Gay men. We drew from, and were strengthened by, your wisdom. You have shaped the bricks and grounded the wires.

Now, we must be silent no more. We must celebrate our lives and all that we are. And so it shall be. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the Conference Steering Committee and the Beyond 28 Days Committee, thank you for your dedication and commitment to this year's conference.



artist and faculty biographies

Lawrence Dewyatt Abrams is a 25-year-old Black Gay man. He was originally born in Harlem, but now makes his home in Brooklyn. He is a writer whose works have been featured in such journals as the *Pyramid Periodical*. He is a graduate of Yale University and a current doctoral student in Developmental Psychology at Columbia University. In addition, he is a Deacon Candidate at Unity Fellowship of Christ Church of New York City. Currently, he is the HIV Counselor/Caseworker at the Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI) for the protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth.

Gregory Adams is a media consultant and former media director for the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights and Liberation. Adams has worked as a communications specialist, publicist, event producer, promoter, fundraiser and activist for people of color and the HIV-affected for several years. Last year, as national communications director for the March on Washington, he played a pivotal role in achieving unprecedented press coverage in both the mainstream and community media.

Kofi Adoma is a native Detroiter who is currently attending graduate school in clinical psychology at the University of Michigan. She has been celebrating Kwanzaa since 1972 and has exposed thousands of people to this seven-day African American holiday

through presentations and through the actual observance itself. She strongly believes that Black people ought not to just acknowledge but practice self-defining and self-affirming rituals that bring us together as a community. Kofi lives in Detroit and is a member of Full Truth Fellowship Church, the Ann Arbor Lesbian of Color Collective, and the James Baldwin-Pat Parker Society—all of which share her dedication to the principles that Kwanzaa represents. She plays jazz violin and has published a number of coloring books for Black children, one entitled *The Kwanzaa Koloring Kit for Kids*.

Jafari Allen is the founder of Adodi at Morehouse University. He is currently on leave from Morehouse at Amnesty International on a Ralph J. Bunche Fellowship.

Tyrone Ayrone was born and raised in Amityville, N.Y., where he began his training at the Eglevsky School of Ballet. He has also studied at BOCES Cultural Arts Center and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. Ayrone has danced with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Jubilation! Dance Company and Michiyo and Dancers. He was an original member of the Blue Mercury Dancing Company and also associate artistic director. Ayrone has choreographed for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Dance Theater of Harlem Ensemble and the Dance Institute of Washington, D.C., and is a recipient of the Field Challenge Grant. He is currently on the faculty at BOCES and New York City Public Housing Authority, Center of Education in New Haven, Conn., and the East New York Theatrical Workshop where he is executive director.

Michelle O. Badger is a work in progress who has been affected by HIV/AIDS since the mid-'80s. She has provided many trainings ranging from the basics to the advanced. Badger has worked in research as well as direct services. Currently employed by a major urban teaching hospital, she functions as a perinatal AIDS case manager. In the past she has belonged to several AIDS organizations. Having slowed down considerably, she has limited her participation to the New Jersey Women and AIDS Network where she serves as co-chair.

Willie C. Barnes, "vocalist extraordinaire" comes to New York by way of California, where he received his B.A. from U.S.C. He also studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. An accomplished actor and director, Barnes has been perfecting his vocal skill since the age of three. His door is always open to young people and he serves as an inspiration to many. He sincerely sends "Divine love, peace, joy and happiness" to all. (Also see combined Wright and Barnes biography in this section.)

Dr. Ron Barrett is a psychologist practicing in Southern California.

Chryell D. Bellamy, M.S.W., is currently the assistant director at the New Jersey Women and AIDS Network. Before going to NJWAN, Chyrell was an AIDS Case Manager at UMDNJ-University Hospital. At University, Chryell co-facilitated a Lesbian and HIV support group. Chyrell has been active in AIDS and Women's organizations since 1987.

George Bellinger, Jr. is a sex-positive Afrofemcentric (a phrase coined by Craig Harris to mean a Black person who is feminist and Black identified) man who has been involved in the Lesbian and Gay, progressive and civil/human rights struggles since the late '70s. Bellinger has been extremely active in battling the HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially in developing strategies to address challenges and concerns for Gay men of color, adolescents, substance abusers and women. He has held prominent positions for some of the leading AIDS organizations throughout the country. A compelling speaker, Bellinger has developed and trained numerous professionals in addressing and challenging their belief systems and effecting movement towards a more accepting plane. Bellinger enjoys exploring why people behave in distinct manners, but he always works towards respecting where people are, while helping them to examine issues that keep so many individuals separated in our communities. Bellinger would like to dedicate his work this year to Harvey J. Lucas, a man that always found a way to inspire, challenge and excite him.

Suhir Blackeagle is a priestess, educator, lecturer, philosopher and performance artist. A visionary soul from Detroit, Mich., she has been a practitioner, educator and entertainer of awareness and spirituality for over 15 years. Blackeagle is known for her daring, charismatic style of encouragement and empowerment through sounds, color, movement and symbols. Her work is based on the Ancestral Mother-rite traditions which inspire full intuition and and self-awareness. She is currently on tour performing her latest musical creation The Healing, which portrays her emotional and spiritual transitional journey to self-awareness. She has performed for the 1993 New York Lesbian and Gay Pride Rally, for African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change, and at Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Sweetwaters and the WOW Cafe, all in New York. On the road, she has performed at the Gardner Galleria in Philadelphia, at the first annual Circle of Voices Womyn of Color Music Festival, and did an impromptu performance during the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights and Liberation. Blackeagle facilitates, and is available for Ancestral Rites of Passage, and for Mother-rite Awareness seminars in churches, schools and corporate institutions.

Miche Braden is a singer, actress, musician, arranger, composer, writer and musical director. She recently completed her seventh production of Lady Day at Emerson's Bar And Grill at the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia both as Billie Holiday and musical director. She has also played both roles in Detroit, Toronto, Boston, Connecticut, Upstate New York and Melvern, Pa. Braden studied with the jazz greats of her native Detroit, including Marcus Belgrave, Harold McKinney, and the late Earl van Dyke of Motown. She has performed with Lionel Hampton, Milt Hinton and Noel Pointer, and was founder of the Atlantic Recording Artists' female jazz band, Straight Ahead. She is presently working on a solo recording with producer Chauncey Mahan, and can be seen every Monday night as comic hostess and pianist for Open Mic Night at Two Steps Down in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Robert Bray is a "Fight the Right" organizer and former communications director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He has been a communications and media professional for 14 years and is a longtime activist for the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual rights movement. Bray is a nationally recognized spokesperson who is frequently quoted in the press. Bray is currently based in San Francisco where he helps organize against anti-Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual initiatives around the nation.

Vincent Henri Brown, C.P.A., received his BBA in Accounting from Pace University in the fall of 1983, then went on for certification in New York in 1985 and New Jersey in 1990. His experiences have included management of investment portfolios aggregating more than $300 million and has successfully negotiated restructuring of credit facilities to match changes in business operations. Brown has been auditor and CPA at a "Big 6" national accounting firm where he specialized in computer-based auditing

of banks and brokerage houses. He makes his home in Newark, N.J.

Ron Buckmire runs the Queer Resources Directory, the largest collection of information on Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/AIDS available on the Internet. Buckmire was born May 21, 1968 in Grenville, Grenada and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Applied Mathematics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. His memberships include ACLU, NOW, HRCF, NGLTF, EDF, WWF, PATW, AI, Greenpeace, NAACP, LLDEF and GLAAD/NY. Buckmire is a World Chess Federation FIDE Master and a United States Senior Master. A more detailed biography is available in the bios section of the Queer Resources Directory, available by gopher, ftp, wais, mosaic and ftp-mail server at vector.intercon.com.

Tina Bush is a native of Bridgeport, Conn. She began her professional career with the Jubilation! Dance Company, then went on to dance with Michiyo and Dancers, Milton Myers and Dancers, Forces of Nature Dance Company, the Jamison Project, Nayo and Friends and Jean Erdman's Dance Theater. Bush also appeared in the Shatz European tour of *Carmen Jones,* the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Porgy and Bess,* and Virginia Opera's South American tour of *Porgy and Bess* as dance captain. Her credits include teaching modern dance at several universities and institutions on the East Coast and Japan. Bush also appeared in the PBS production of Reading Rainbow and Ayoka Chinzura's film *In All My Born Days.* She collaborated with Judith Jamison to have three of her choreographed works added to the repertoire of the Basel Ballet Company in Switzerland. She is currently working with the Joyce Trisler Dance Company and Amy Payvar.

Lynnette Cain, A.C.S.W. Her education and training have caused her to be a social worker, therapist, administrator and teacher. She feels that education is key to unmasking ignorance and prejudice. Her life work is to enhance the quality of life for all individuals, particularly children. To achieve this end, she is the troop leader for Girl Scout Troop 437, an active participant on a number of school board committees, a member of the Huron Valley Black Social Workers Association and a member of the Gay and Lesbian Parents' Coalition International.

Bartholomew Casimir worked in the Health Care Field for the past 20 years. More recently, Bartholomew has maintained a high profile as a publicly identified person living with HIV infection and substance abuse recovery, contributing enormously to the self-empowerment movement for people living with these life threatening illnesses. He is presently president of the Board of Directors for the National Association of People With AIDS, and an active member of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, the National Institute of Health AIDS Program Advisory Committee and AIDS Program Advisory Committee of Standlander's Pharmacy and has served on the Executive Committee for the 1993 March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Rights and Liberation. He is presently pursuing a higher degree in Public Health.

Rev. Rainey Cheeks is the founder and Program Director of Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc. He is also the founder and pastor of the Inner Light Unity Fellowship Church in Washington, D.C. Rev. Cheeks has been living with AIDS and treating himself with holistic methods for over ten years. In 1992 and 1993, he was an invited presenter on Holistic Health at the International World Health AIDS Conferences in Amsterdam and Berlin. He is a former international martial arts champion and has a sixth degree black belt in Karate.

Choreografitti is a small collective of diverse womyn dancers and choreographers who present choreographic works specifically designed to promote progressive social, political and spiritual awareness for The New Age. Their major goal is to perform for non-profit organizations and programs that congregate individuals that would not usually be exposed to theatrical dance such as economically deprived inner city youth, womyn and people of color. Another major goal is to provide a performance outlet for both womyn and men dancers who have been discriminated against by other professional dance companies because of their particular diversities—age, race and body type, to name a few. Through their combined individual talents and services, they premiered The Creatrix on April 15, 1989 for the Lehman College Presenter Series.

Michelle T. Clinton. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 38)*

Mario Cooper *(See Keynote Speakers, page 39)*

Louis Dixon has been studying and practicing Zen Buddhism since 1990 with Dr. Claude Mitram Ware, a Gay Buddhist priest. Dixon took his Upasaka vows on Sept. 1, 1992, and remains under the Tutelage of Dr. Ware at the Mitra-Dharma Zen Mission located in Los Angeles.

ETHOS...a Dance Theater Company was founded to address the needs of artists who wish to explore who we are, where we come from, and who we choose to share our lives with, and why. The group is committed to presenting works that address and reflect a broad spectrum of topics that affect us as a people and to bringing multiculturally-oriented dance to expose and educate audiences in a variety of venues. Ethos is committed to encouraging people through dance to enjoy and appreciate and become a part of a community that supports art of varying origin, temperament and discipline.

Gideon Ferebee was born in the Bronx during the Korean War and has been writing poetry since he was a senior in high school. He now calls the nation's capital city his home after spending two decades there trying to grow old and wise. His first book, *Our Own Protection,* a collection of essays aimed at the heart and soul of the African American Gay and Lesbian community is scheduled for release in 1994. He is a founding member of the Inner Light Unity Fellowship in Washington, D.C., and a videographer with DreamKeeper Productions.

Louise Gant is a past co-chair of the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men. She currently serves as co-chair of the Coalition's Education Committee and she proudly serves as a board member of the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, a D.C. based advocacy, support and education group and is a member of Gaylaw. Gant is a professional mediator who conciliates racial and ethnic disputes for the D.C. Superior Court.

Kristine M. Gebbie. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 40)*

Shahara Lauren E. Godfrey, M.A., is employed as a social worker for a non-profit, community-based African American mental health agency located in San Francisco. Currently, she attends the University of San Francisco, as a doctoral student in the Department of Education, Counseling Psychology program.

Jeff Haskins, a native of Washington, D.C., is a poet, performer and manager. He has worked with Jubilation! Dance Company, Lincoln Center Theater, the New Federal Theater, Manhattan Theater Club, Playwright Horizons, and the BACA Downtown.

Haskins is also the founder and executive producer of the Producing Association for the Performing Arts and is managing director of Center of the Rainbow and Rainbow Repertory Theater. He directed 69 for the Rainbow, which also appeared at Spoke the Hub Dancing last October. His credits include *Sins of the Brother, Livin' My Life, The House of Lear* and a one-man performance piece, *The 26 Project,* mounted at the North Hampton Center for the Arts in Massachusetts. As a writer, his poetry was featured in *100 Black Gay Poets* edited by Assotto Saint. He is currently a a manager at the Minority Task Force on AIDS in New York.

Dr. Marjorie J. Hill is assistant vice president for Special Populations at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the largest public health network in our nation. Her responsibilities include the development of primary care initiatives in women's health, adolescent health and in homeless health management in HHC's eleven acute care hospitals and six diagnostic and treatment centers. Prior to her appointment by Mayor David Dinkins, Dr. Hill provided a combined 10 years of administrative leadership to Kings County Medical Center and Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center where her chief duties were in child and adolescent psychiatry, and psychology internship training and continuing education.

Rev. Jacquelyn D. Holland, born in Hickory, N.C., is a single mother of two sons, ages 11 and 13. Rev. Holland's political involvement with the womyn's community began while she was a student at Hunter College in New York City. Her student political involvement included participation with Lesbian Risings, Northeast Lesbian and Gay Student Union. Subsequently, she participated in the Black Women's Health Project, NOW, and the Ms. Foundation. Rev. Holland has facilitated workshops on the themes of women leadership and co-counseling. Ministerially, Rev. Holland sang with Lavender Light Black and People of All Colors Gospel Choir and is currently the assistant pastor of Unity Fellowship Church in New York City.

Jill Humphries is affiliated with the UCLA School of Public Health.

Dr. Larry Icard, associate professor, is a Lesbian and Gay scholar at the University of Washington, School of Social Work. He has published several articles on Black Gay men, and AIDS prevention among African Americans. His publications include *Preventing AIDS Among Black Gay Men and Black Gay and Heterosexual Male Intravenous Drug Users, Counseling Black Gay Men,* and *Black Gay Men and Conflicting Identities.* In addition, he serves as a consultant to health and human service agencies, and teaches courses on research, administration, and practice with Lesbians and Gays.

Ric Irick is the creator of the *BGM Talkshow,* the hardhitting live forum presented by and for Black Gay men. He also produces *Talkshow to Go,* a series of Montel-like videotapes that delves into subjects of concern to the minds, hearts and crotches of Gay men. Presently Irick is publisher of the *Malebox,* a monthly Gay newsletter mailed to 1,500 men who count on it to track publications, politics and parties catering to Afro homos. After completing an M.B.A. from George Washington University, he directed the marketing efforts of a major Washington company. While today he is an advertising manager for a Fortune 500 corporation, he is eager to commence an entrepreneurial career.

G. Colette Jackson, performance artist, was awarded a grant from the National Fund for Gay and Lesbian Artists, a project of Highways Performance Space, and the 18th Street Artist Complex. She was chosen as one of the 12 performance artists to study with Rachel Rosenthal, internationally known performance artist, and collaborate a performance *Viendo Oro,* a project funded in part by the Mark Taper Forum and Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Jackson has written and performed several performances dealing with homophobia, child abuse and raciality.

Reginald T. Jackson is a director, playwright, dramaturge, and activist. He is the founder and artistic director of Rainbow Repertory Theater and Center of the Rainbow. He has written and directed many works for the Young Playwrights Festival, New York Theater Workshop, Ernie Martin Studio Theater, Alonzo Players Theater, the Directors Company Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, PS 122, the Pained Bride in Philadelphia and the National Black Theater in Atlanta, where he presented the first-ever full-length Gay play at this renowned Harlem theater. He has taught acting and playwriting privately and as part of the New York City school system, where he has also written curriculum on playwriting, and done teacher training. He is also a published writer and has recently finished a book on directing entitled, *What I Really Want to Do Is Direct.* He serves on the Arts-in-Education Panel of the New York State Council on the Arts. Most recently, he directed *John Brown* by Thomas McMorrow, Jr. at the Intar Theater and The House of Lear at the Center of the Rainbow.

Julie Jenkins, M.A., C.S.W., L.P.C., has been a Lesbian for 23 years, a social worker in the field of family and child welfare for 17 years and a parent for six. Currently she is the director of the Classification and Assignment and Reentry Programs for the Office of Delinquency Services, Michigan Department of Social Services. Community activism is central to her life activities. The NAACP, League of Women Voters, Gay and Lesbian Parents' Coalition International, Girl Scouts and the Michigan Association of Children's Alliances have been able to take a more proactive view of Gay and Lesbian persons and Gay and Lesbian parents through her contributions and participation with these organizations.

Elder Zachary Jones. *(See Awards, page 21)*

Vanessa Marshall is a Forensic Psychology major who went on to receive her M.S.W. from Hunter College School of Social Work of the City University of New York. She is currently a Social Work Consultant with the Day Care Council of New York. Her vast experience in social service includes providing housing services for PWAs, teaching adult daily living skills while providing counseling and guidance for legal and adoption services. Marshall has also conducted support groups and rehabilitation counseling for students with disabilities, taught time management, social interaction and stress management in an introductory counseling course to college freshmen and returning students.

Vera Martin has been an active participant of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leaderhsip Forum for the past six years. She is the coordinator of the Old Lesbian Organization Committee and a charter member of the Old Lesbian Organization of the Bay Area. Martin has been a member of Women's Company, a group with over 100 Lesbian professionals, and has participated in audio documentaries on aging for several radio station programs. She coordinated older Lesbian participation at the 1991 National Lesbian Conference in Atlanta.

Scot Nakagawa is "Fight the Right" organizer and analyst for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He comes to the Task Force with 16 years of experience as an activist in economic and social justice movements. At 15, he became involved in the movement for Hawaiian sovereignty, advocating for treaty rights and reparations

for Native Hawaiians. Since that time, he has been the director of a complex of youth shelters and domestic violence programs for third world youth and families, led organizing of Hawaii's first statewide lobby advocating for third world youth, and organized child care collectives in low income housing projects and free medical clinics for farm worker families. Since 1988, Nakagawa has focused on fighting the right wing. He was the first director of the Coalition for Human Dignity, a multi-racial research and organizing center in Portland, Ore. Nakagawa currently serves on the boards of Artists for a Hate-Free America which is raising money and awareness throughout the entertainment industry, and the World Council of Churches U.S. Urban Rural Mission.

Eden Ajrian-Omari. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 38)*

Jonathan Poullard is the Assistant Dean of Students at Occidental College. He works with the retention of students, campus-wide leadership development, international student affairs, advising for students experiencing academic difficulty, and provides advocacy for students of color and Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual students. Poullard is also a Commissioner for the Los Angeles Unified School District's Commission on Education for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. He specializes in the education of others around issues of combatting oppression.

Mayor Kenneth C. Reeves. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 40)*

Colin Robinson is a writer and community organizer who works as an HIV public policy advocate. He was the New York field producer for *Tongues Untied*.

H. Alexander Robinson is currently a co-chair of the Campaign for Fairness. In addition, he serves as the legislative representative for the American Civil Liberties Union AIDS and Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Projects. Before joining the ACLU, Robinson served as administrator of the Inner City AIDS Network and as deputy executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council. He is president of the D.C. CARE Consortium and serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the Washington Metropolitan HIV Services Planning Council, by appointment of D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly. Robinson represents the ACLU as a co-chair of the National Organizations Responding to AIDS and as chair of the Gay/Lesbian and Bisexual Military Freedom Project.

Rev. Sandra Robinson. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 41)*

Christopher Dana Rose has appeared in New York as a tenor soloist in Gounod's *Messe de St. Cecilia* and has sung the tenor solos in Camille Saint-Saens's *Christmas Oratorio* in New York and Dallas. He has appeared in *Godspell,* the Los Angeles company of *Hair* and is published in *Other Countries: Black Gay Men Writing*. Rose holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature and a master's in Divinity.

Keven Scott appeared in two movies and several plays following his training at acting school. He attended the University of San Francisco where he majored in Marketing. After completing his degree, he came to Washington, D.C. Scott has been on a steady career path and did not give much attention to his love of the theater until the birth of the *BGM Talkshow*. Although Scott's home is now in the D.C. area, his heart is in Northern California. A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Scott stays active with the Los Angeles-based "At the Beach" which are responsible for the nation's largest Lesbian and Gay beach party. His other interests are counting profits as a member of the Millionaire Boys Club investment club and traveling to exotic places whenever time allows.

LaQuetta M. Shamblee has a background in management and accounting and shares her experience as a part-time instructor in vocational schools and junior colleges. Currently, she is one of the growing number of women of color serving as adjunct faculty at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, Calif. A product of the Compton Unified School District, she is tuned into the realities of economic challenges facing many African American communities. As an educator, Shamblee is committed to providing individuals with the knowledge and tools to pursue their economic goals; as a Lesbian, she encourages commitment to personal and community economic empowerment.

Suzanne Shende is a staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the Director of their Anti-Biased Violence Project. She graduated from Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School. Prior to graduating from law school she worked at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. She was a founding member of Black Lesbian Womyn and Gay Men in Struggle and participated in grassroots struggles against police brutality in Michigan. Upon graduation, Shende worked as a staff attorney fellow for the Reproductive Freedom Project of the ACLU, where her work included cases against the prosecution of pregnant chemically addicted women and the coercive use of Norplant. Her legal work at the Center for Constitutional Rights involves combating racist, sexist, homophobic and other bigoted violence, including police brutality. Her current political activism includes fighting AIDS in the Black community with BAM! Black AIDS Mobilization as well as working with South Asian Lesbian and Gay Alliance.

Dr. Ron Simmons is a writer, photographer, media producer and the executive director of Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc. He is certified as a "trainer of trainers" in AIDS Prevention for African Americans and high risk youth. A former assistant professor at Howard University, his essay, "Some Thoughts on the Challenges Facing Black Gay Intellectuals" was published in the anthology *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men*. He was also the Washington, D.C. field producer for the award winning film *Tongues Untied*.

Barbara Smith. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 41)*

Nadine Smith is executive director of the Human Rights Task Force of Florida and former co-chair of the 1993 March on Washington. A former newspaper journalist and longtime media activist, Smith was elected co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay delegates caucus of the 1993 Democratic National Convention. She was the first open Lesbian to run for a city council seat in Tampa, Fla. and successfully led the fight to add sexual orientation to the city and county human rights ordinance.

Vengerflutta Calita Smith currently resides in Buffalo, N.Y. She is an educator, trainer and humorist, who uses her vivacious personality to heal the wounds of those who endeavor to survive in an oppressive environment and attempts to empower those who wish to change it. Smith spends about half of her time speaking and presenting at colleges, universities, professional conferences and community organizations. She is currently member-at-large for the American College Personnel Association Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Awareness.

James Stokes graduated from Miami University (of Ohio) in 1965 and California State University, Northridge in 1972. He is a teacher and a free-lance writer. Stokes has been an osteomate since 1974. He does volunteer work for the AIDS Prevention Team and for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in Los Angeles.

Charles B. Tarver, IV, is a former adjunct professor at Emerson College/Suffolk University with more than 20 years experience in communication and public relations. He continues to offer technical assistance to non-profit organizations and develop training and curricula for corporate training institutes. Through this conference, Tarver has offered workshops on spirituality, addictive behaviors, and the ever-popular "Brother to Brother" sessions which deals with the dynamics of relationship development for Black Gay men.

Chuck Tarver (Charles Louis Nero Tarver) jokingly refers to himself as just another Delaware housewife. He was born May 31, 1953 in Galesburg, Ill., raised in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. and lived in Boston. He and his wife are jointly raising three sons in Wilmington, Del. His written works have appeared in *B&G*, and *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS*. He participated on the Parenting/Families panels at BGLLF's sixth annual Conference in Long Beach. He is Station Manager of WVUD at the University of Delaware.

Christine Adams Tripp, J.D., born in Los Angeles, Calif., graduated from U.C.L.A. with honors. She holds a postgraduate degree from the West Los Angeles School of Law, where she was vice president of her graduating class and founder of the Black American Law Student Association. Tripp has been a community activist since 1969 and currently serves as board secretary of the Minority AIDS Project. She is also a member of the Unity Fellowship Church (Los Angeles) board of trustees, president of Longwood Lookout Homeowners Association and president of Southwest Los Angeles PC User Group. She is owner of ATA Services.

Sacha Vington, M.D., is a Haitian born Gay male who was raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and attended Columbia College. He completed his medical doctorate at UMDNJ-Rutgers Medical School, and his psychiatry residency at New York University Medical Center-Bellevue Hospital Center where he is presently a fellow in Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay psychiatry. Dr. Vington is completing his Ph.D. in Human Sexuality at New York University and is the founder of the National Academic Congress of Peoples in the Life. He is also maintains a part-time private psychiatry practice in New York City.

Charlene M. Waldron is a 24-year-old woman of color. Formerly a battered Lesbian, she has been working in the Domestic Violence Movement for over two years. Aside from being a full time student at Boston University School of Social Work, she has organized various programs for teens, homeless women, Lesbians, battered women and Women of Color. In her spare time, she loves to write on topics ranging from eating disorders to sex and everything else that comes to mind.

James (Jamie) Washington. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 41)*

Robert P. Wasson, Jr. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 42)*

Shari Webb is a Transgender counselor and program coordinator for an AIDS Resource Center in San Francisco, and Advisory Board member of the Brothers Network. She considers it an honor to be on the faculty of this year's conference. Born in Marin county 37 years ago, she is one of two Transgenders in her family. While in high school she began dressing as a woman and left junior college early to begin secretarial training. It was in these later years that she began living as a woman full time and maintained the love and support of her family. It was also during these years that she began working as a sex worker, earning enough money to undergo sex reassignment surgery. After completing the healing process, Webb became involved "in-the-trenches" with outreach work distributing bleach, condoms and HIV information to the Bay Area communities. Webb explains: "...living in the opposite sex...takes its toll in the form of harassment, arrest, violence and discrimination from the straight and Gay community."

Evelyn C. White. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 42)*

A. Renee Williams, is the coordinator of Educational and Outreach Programs for Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children, in Santa Monica, Calif. Williams is responsible for the development and implementation of educational materials to aid in the demythification of domestic violence. Her specialization is addressing the interconnectedness of the "isms" and what role it plays in the objectification of women. Williams is the chair of the Womyn's Caucus for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, chair of the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council Training Committee, co-chair of the Southern California Coalition on Battered Women-Womyn of Color Caucus, Advisory Board member for the Alcoholism Center for Women's-LAPIS Program and serves as a board member for the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence, where she also holds the position of secretary.

Reggie Williams. *(See Keynote Speakers, page 43)*

Gary Paul Wright, a singer and songwriter, is a native of Dallas, Tex. He has appeared in numerous stage productions and has experience as a playwright and a director. A poet since the age of seven, Wright hopes to continue to write songs that not only tell stories of Black people, but hopes that his experiences as a Gay man can help conquer racism and homophobia. He currently lives in Jersey City with his life partner, Peter. (Also see combined Wright and Barnes biography in this section.)

Wright and Barnes. When Gary Paul Wright met Willie C. Barnes in September, 1989, history was in the making. Barnes's vocal expertise inspired Wright to finish a song he had been working on for about two years. That song, "Oh, My Children," was performed at the first Outmusic festival and brought the house down. The two have been performing original music together ever since. Their most outstanding accomplishments was producing the show entitled *United in the Universe* at the Nuyorican Poets' Cafe last year. Although each has appeared separately over the last three years, their growth as a duo continues. Their performance tonight is dedicated to the memory of Craig Harris, the person who introduced the two of them to each other. Ache! (Also see individual Gary Paul Wright and Willie C. Barnes biographies in this section.)

Zenobia, a singer, songwriter, lecturer and musician, started singing at age five in a Los Angeles church choir, where she also taught herself to play the piano. She made her Broadway debut at 18 in *Hair*. Zenobia has sung backup for performers such as Jane Olivor, Gene Pitney, Mott the Hoople, and was one of the original Weather Girls. Other musicians who have joined her in performance are Edwina Lee Tyler, Jacque DuPree and Ubaka Hill. She is currently in the studio working on a solo album entitled *Persistence of the Heart*, a collection of her original songs. Her most recent performances were at the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights and Liberation, the CBGB Gallery and at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York City.

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On behalf of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, we praise the efforts of all volunteers. Your contributions have been instrumental in the planning and implementation of the Seventh Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Institutes.

Volunteers are often referred to as the invisible worker, the unseen blood pumping life into the organizational heart. Many have worked long hours, learned new skills and had existing talents "tapped." Thank you for giving so generously. Your presence is vital. Your committment is appreciated.

Our gratitude cannot be fully expressed within the confines of this page, nor this weekend. Your abilities shall be remembered during this conference...and beyond.

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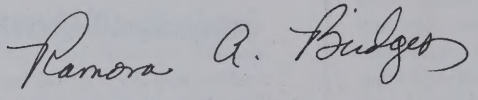

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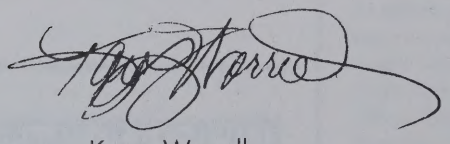

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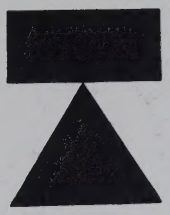


extends to

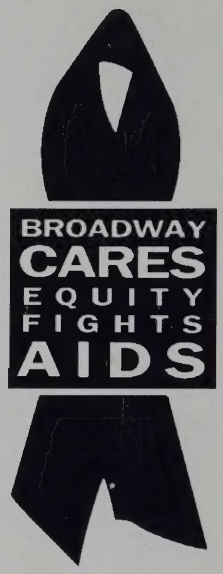
The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

best wishes on the occasion of your

Seventh Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference

The Minority Task Force on AIDS (MTFA)
is the largest minority owned and operated
AIDS Community Based Organization in New York City.
In the fight against HIV/AIDS,
MTFA is dedicated to providing
education, service, and advocacy
on behalf of the
African American Gay and Lesbian Community

We are located at:
505 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10018
(212) 563-8340



Standing Proudly Beside Our Brothers & Sisters in the Fight

Imagine, Demand and Work for a Cure

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